



Volunteers of Quantum Foundation in Pabna bring the bodies of a Muslim, left, and a Christian for burial at graveyards of the respective communities, and the body of a Hindu to a crematorium, below. All the three died with Covid-19 or its symptoms recently. PHOTO: STAR

Faith different, last rites with same hands

Quantum Foundation volunteers arrange funeral of Covid-19 victims in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPLI, Pabna

A team of volunteers of Quantum Foundation take the responsibility of the last rites of the Covid-19 victims in Pabna, setting a unique example of dedication and courage during the pandemic.

In last one month, a 12-member team of the foundation arranged funeral of seven Muslims, one Hindu and one Christian, who died with Covid-19 or its symptoms when their family members and community people shied away from the job.

A female nursing student of Khwaza Eunus Ali Nursing College in Sirajganj's Enayetur died with Covid-19 at Khwaza Eunus Ali Medical College Hospital on June 8.

When the body reached her home at Chandva village in Pabna's Atghoria upazila, nobody dared to come forward for her funeral.

A team of Quantum Foundation reached the spot and buried her in the village graveyard with religious rites.

"When locals created obstacle to burying her, the volunteers of Quantum Foundation did it. No word is enough to thank them," said Saidul Islam, uncle of the deceased.

A Christian resident of Pabna Baptist Mission house died with fever, cough, respiratory problem and other symptoms of Covid-19 on June 11.

"The death panicked the community people. At one stage we informed Quantum Foundation and they arranged burying him in the Christian graveyard in Pabna town, following Christian rituals," said Kalit Talukder, president of graveyard committee.

The volunteers took the body of a Hindu, who died at Pabna Medical College Hospital on



Sunday night with the symptom of Covid-19, to Mohashoshan (crematorium) in Pabna the next day for burning the body.

"It is the time to be more human during the Covid-19 pandemic. But most people are too afraid to reach those who die with the disease or its symptoms," said Md Towhidul Islam, local team leader of Quantum Foundation.

"Our team arranges the burial or burning of the bodies, following religious rites. Twelve people including two female members of the

foundation are working in Pabna for arranging with honour the last rites of Covid-19 victims," he said.

Talking with The Daily Star, Pabna Deputy Commissioner Kabir Mahamud said, "Due to the lack of required manpower, the local administration often finds it difficult to manage the Covid-19 victims' funeral. During this crisis period, Quantum Foundation team is doing a great humanitarian job and we are helping them in the work."

IMPACT OF COVID-19 Jhalakathi lemon growers feel the pinch

The outbreak of novel coronavirus pandemic is the apparent cause for the situation



Devoid of any buyers, sellers sort freshly picked lemons at Bhimruli wholesale market in Jhalakathi Sadar. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Despite high demand at retail markets where it is selling for good prices, lemon growers are failing to sell the produce at profitable rates due to a drop in the number of interested buyers at Bhimruli wholesale market in Jhalakathi Sadar.

The outbreak of novel coronavirus pandemic is the apparent cause for the situation, said local lemon growers and wholesalers.

Most of the lemon gardens in the area belong to women entrepreneurs and they depend on the earnings from sales of the fruit. The unexpected fall in prices this year has come as a terrible blow to their livelihood.

Hundreds of lemon famers in Jhalakathi are now worried whether they would be able to survive after incurring such losses during the ongoing lemon harvest season.

According to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Jhalakathi, lemon has been cultivated on 236 hectares of land in the district.

Fazlul Haque, deputy director of DAE in Jhalakathi, said rich in vitamins, different varieties of tasty lemons of Jhalakathi

region are available all year round. But its peak harvest season starts in July and remains till September.

It is high in demand in the cities, but its demand at local wholesale markets fell as only a few wholesalers are coming to local wholesale markets lately, he added.

Farmers said a good sized lemon usually sold for Tk 2 to 4 at wholesale markets, but now a similar size lemon is selling for only Tk 1 or 2.

Shikha Rani Halder, a lemon farmer in the area, said, "My earnings from sales used to be around Tk 1 lakh each season. But now it has been halved -- thanks to the shortage of wholesalers."

Shubhrojit Halder, a shopkeeper at Bhimruli market, said the market used to be swarmed with wholesalers in the morning when fresh lemons were brought in by growers. "Many of the wholesalers used to come to the market in large boats to buy the lemon, but now only a few boats turn up."

Explaining the situation, lemon wholesaler Sanjay said, "In contrast with normal times, I am now paying higher fare to transport lemon from here to Dhaka and also paying higher wages to workers."

Sikder Group's illegal structure in Kuakata beach

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The authorities of Sikder Resort and Villas keep building a structure near the Kuakata beach defying a removal notice issued by the local land office almost a year ago.

According to the Kalapara upazila land office, the structure is being built on 800 square feet of government's khas land in front of Kuakata National Park near the sandy beach.

Locals and construction workers said the structure will be a coffee house for Sikder Group's resort in Kalapara upazila and the work started last year.

Noticing the construction work, the Mahipur union land office prepared and submitted a report to the assistant commissioner (land) of Kalapara on June 30, 2019.

The AC (land) then served a notice to the authorities of Sikder Resort on July 8, 2019 to remove the illegal structure within seven days. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of that notice.

The Kalapara Upazila Land Office also sent a letter on the same day to the Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner's Office, requesting necessary legal action to remove the illegal establishment.

The resort's account manager Md Shaheen told the Daily Star that he received the notice on July 17, 2019.

But the structure has not been removed yet, as seen by this correspondent during a recent visit to that area.

Contacted on June 8, Faisal Ahmed Chowdhury, general manager of Sikder



Sikder Resort constructing this structure near Kuakata beach in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, defying a removal notice issued by the local land office. PHOTO: STAR

Resort, said, "I am new here. I can't get into details about everything at this moment. However, our representative will contact you."

Later in the day, a man, introducing himself as Shahjahan Akon, told this correspondent over the phone that they have all the legal documents relating to the land and construction of the structure.

Though he promised to show the documents to this correspondent, he never contacted again or responded to repeated phone calls.

When Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Matul Islam Chowdhury was asked last week why no action was taken against the

illegal work in the last one year, he sidestepped the question.

The DC, instead, said due to the shutdown driven by the Covid-19 pandemic, they were unable to take any action.

The countrywide shutdown began on March 26.

On Saturday, Kalapara Upazila Assistant Commissioner of land Jagatbandhu Mondal told The Daily Star, "After getting instruction from the DC, we have served the final notice to Sikder Resort on June 10 [this year] to remove the illegal structure within 30 days of receiving the notice.

"If they do not comply, we will take legal action."



Citizens under the banner of Sammilita Nagorik Samaj from a human chain at Choumohona in Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday demanding immediate release of all the persons arrested under Digital Security Act and abolition of the act. PHOTO: STAR

Teacher sued over rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A headmaster of a government primary school in Kishoreganj's Kulaichar upazila was sued on Wednesday for allegedly attempting to rape a fifth grader girl of the institution.

The incident came to light after father of the 11-year-old victim filed a case with Kuliarchar Police Station on Wednesday accusing the 42-year-old teacher, Officer-in-Charge of the police station Abdul Hye said.

Meanwhile, local people formed a human chain in Darigaon area the same day, demanding immediate arrest of the culprit.

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Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part
RAJUK Commercial Complex cum
Car Parking Building (8th & 9th Floor),
Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK)

Memo No: 25.39.0000.154.14.162.20/231Date: 16 June 2020

Invitation for Bids

Country : Bangladesh
Name of Project : Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part
Credit No. : IDA-55990
Contract Title : Procurement of Equipment: Cutter Crane with 10 inch RCC Slab Cutting Capacity & 3.65 Ton Lifting Capacity
Reference No. : URP/RAJUK/G-23

IFB No.: ICB-2(G)/2019-20

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Procurement of Equipment: Cutter Crane with 10 inch RCC Slab Cutting Capacity & 3.65 Ton Lifting Capacity.
2. The Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part, RAJUK now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:
Brief Description of required Goods including Quantities:
Cutter Crane with 10 inch RCC Slab Cutting Capacity & 3.65 Ton Lifting Capacity-1(No.)

The location of delivery of Goods is Dhaka, Bangladesh.
The delivery period is 180 (One Hundred Eighty) days from the date of contract.
Qualifications of the Bidder: (i) Financial Capability: at least US\$ 0.3 (Zero point Three) Million or an equivalent amount, (ii) Specific Experience: Supplying of Heavy Field Equipment of minimum value US\$ 0.3 (Zero point Three) Million of not more than one contract within the last 5 (Five) years etc.
Detailed qualifications requirements and a margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall be applied as defined in Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria of bidding document. Specifications of required Goods are available in Section VII – Schedule of Requirements of bidding document.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers January 2011 (Revised July 2014)* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director, Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part, RAJUK, electronic mail address: helalyrajuk@yahoo.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours **Local Time: 0900 to 1700 hours** at the address given below.
5. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at **11.00 AM local time (GMT+6 hrs.) on July 05, 2020** at the office of the undersigned.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **BDT 4,200.00 (Four Thousand Two Hundred Bangladesh Taka) or US\$ 50.00 (Fifty US Dollar)**. The method of payment will be cash or pay order in favor of "Project Director, Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part".
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below **on or before 02.00 PM local time (GMT+6 hrs.), August 06, 2020**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below **on 02.15 PM local time (GMT+6 hrs.), August 06, 2020**.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of in favor of the "Project Director, Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part" in the form of an unconditional and irrevocable Bank Guarantee from a reputed bank as per specified format mentioned in the bidding document. The amount and currency of the bid security shall be **BDT 0.6 Million (Zero point Six Million Bangladesh Taka) or US\$ 7,000 (Seven Thousand US Dollar)**. If the bid security is submitted by a financial institution located outside of the Purchaser's Country, the issuing financial institution shall have a correspondent financial institution located in the Purchaser's Country to make it enforceable.
9. The address(es) referred to above is(are): Office of the Project Director, Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK Part, RAJUK Commercial Complex cum Car Parking Building, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh, Cell: +88-01730013947, e-Mail: helalyrajuk@yahoo.com, pd.urp@uru.gov.bd

(Abdul Latif Helaly)
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