

Bright prospect for tea farming in Mymensingh

Bangladesh Tea Board in need of fund to start a project

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

There is a bright prospect for tea cultivation in Garo Hill areas in Mymensingh region, according to sources in Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB).

If thousands of hectares of fallow forest lands in the region are brought under tea cultivation, it will not only earn good foreign exchange but will also provide jobs for thousands of people in tea gardens, according to the sources.

A plan was undertaken by BTB for tea cultivation in the region two years ago, but it could not be materialised due to lack of fund.

In 2002, there had been a plan for starting small holding tea cultivation in the border belts of greater

Mymensingh region.

According to experts in BTB, soil and climatic condition in the border belts of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Netrakona districts is suitable for tea cultivation. More than 15,000 hectares of land in the areas can be brought under tea cultivation, according to experts.

A team of BTB during a feasibility study also found that large number of indicator plants locally called 'Nishi Gachh' grows in the region naturally. The team also planted saplings of tea on the premises of Gajni resting centre and Jhenaihati Upazila Parishad in Sherpur district. The team had also plans to set up demonstration plots to draw attention of small and

marginal farmers. BTB sent a proposal for introducing small holding tea cultivation in the region to the Ministry of Commerce for its approval. But BTB could not proceed further due to fund crisis.

Farmers in the border belts too showed their keen interest to start small holding tea cultivation because of its more profitability, according to sources in BTB.

A BTB official said to The Daily Star, 'We have written to the authorities concerned for releasing fund this month and if the fund is available we expect starting of the project shortly.'

For the purpose we have to build infrastructure, open an office and appoint staff without further delay, said the official.

Bomb hurled at Satkhira BNP leader's house, none hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A hand bomb was allegedly hurled at the house of a local BNP leader Abu Har of Batra village in Kalaroa on upazila Thursday.

However, none was injured. Local people said, they heard sound of the blast at dead of night. They further said, such incidents of bomb blast are occurred only to harass 'opponents'.

On contact, Ishaq Ali, Officer-in-Charge of Kalaroa thana said police will take action after thorough investigation.

Abu Har filed cases with Kalaroa police accusing local Awami League leaders and activists, police said.

He filed another case with in the thana accusing 105 Awami League leaders and activists following a clash between activists of ruling BNP and Awami League on Tuesday. The clash ensued over establishing supremacy in the area, police said. Of the accused, 81 people appeared before the court and the court granted them bail.

Lobster farming can fetch Tk 800 cr annually in Barisal division

BSS, Barisal

Lobsters worth about Tk 800 crore can be produced annually by bringing 1,000 acres of water bodies in each of 40 upazilas in the division under its cultivation.

Experts said the climatic condition is favourable and many water bodies are suitable for lobster cultivation in six districts in the division. But, its cultivation can not be started due to lack of organisational supports and proper initiatives, they added.

An economic revolution can be possible by cultivating shrimps in the division, they said.

They found that the lobsters can be cultivated in ponds, tanks, and saline and sweet water bodies round the year in six processes. The processes are old system, mixed cultivation in paddy fields and ponds, expanded high-yielding method, and half intensive, intensive and high intensive methods.

The experts said half tonne of lobsters can be produced from one hectare of water body at a cost of only Tk 50 in the old system, one tonne in the mixed cultivation methods at a cost of Tk 50 and two tonnes in the expanded high-yielding method at a cost of Tk 100.

Besides, five tonnes of lobsters can be produced from one hectare of water body in the half intensive method at a cost of Tk 150, 10 tonnes in the intensive method at a cost of Tk 250 and 20 tonnes in the high intensive method at a cost of Tk 250, they said.

The lobsters can be produced from 200 kgs to 7.50 tonnes per acre in all these processes in the region.

The cultivation of lobsters up to one tonne at any time is very easy. With the object, the Fisheries Department in the region called

upon NGOs to come forward and help farmers so that lobster farming can be developed for removing poverty and unemployment from

society. They also sought financial help from government for lobster cultivation in the region.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Moulvibazar

Memo No: LGED/XEN/Moul/2004/2512

Dated: 30/10/2004

Invitation for Tender (IFT) Tender Notice Number-09/2004-05

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned list of works as per terms and conditions stated below:

Sl No	Name of contract	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
01	Periodic maintenance of Bagreehal-Mokamilla Road (Ch 00-1300m) (Kulaura).	7000/-	60	300/-
02	Periodic maintenance of Mansoor-Amtail Road (Ch 00-500m) (Kulaura).	2500/-	30	100/-
03	Periodic maintenance of Laskerpur-Gogalicharra-Janatabazar Road (Ch 00-280m) (Kulaura).	2500/-	30	100/-
04	Periodic maintenance of Goalbari-Sagomol Road (Ch 1000-2500m) (Kulaura).	8000/-	60	300/-
05	Periodic maintenance of Dighirpur-Khozar Moszid-Mangalchandi-Jagatshi Road (Ch 1200-2350m) (Sadar).	7000/-	60	300/-
06	Periodic maintenance of Gurara-Keshabchar Road (Ch 00-1660m) (Sadar).	8500/-	60	300/-
07	Periodic maintenance of Thana bazar-Mathakhai-Noria Road (Ch 1500-3000m) (Sadar).	9500/-	60	300/-
08	Periodic maintenance of Kanakpur-Podinapur Road (Ch 6000-7500m) (Sadar).	9500/-	60	300/-
09	Periodic maintenance of Dighirpur-Khozar Moszid-Mangalchandi-Jagatshi Road (Ch 00-1200m) (Sadar).	8000/-	60	300/-
10	Periodic maintenance of Thana Bazar-Mathakhai-Noria Road (Ch 00-1500m) (Sadar).	11000/-	60	300/-
11	Periodic maintenance of Kazir Bazar-Manumuk Road (Ch 1000-2000m) (Sadar).	9000/-	60	300/-
12	Periodic maintenance of Office Bazar-Bhairabganj Road (Ch 4500-6000m) (Sadar).	9500/-	60	300/-
13	Periodic maintenance of Shahbandar-Maskandi Road (Ch 3200-5200m) (Sadar).	13500/-	90	500/-
14	Periodic maintenance of Purba Helapur-Mostafapur Road (Ch 00-1200m) (Sadar).	8500/-	60	300/-
15	Periodic maintenance of R&H-Pahar Barshijura-Dighalgazi Road (Ch 00-1900m) (Sadar).	14000/-	90	500/-
16	Periodic maintenance of Moulvibazar-Barshijora-Shimultala Road (Ch 500-2500m) (Sadar).	13500/-	90	500/-
17	Periodic maintenance of Office Bazar-Bhairabganj Road (Ch 1500-3000m) (Sadar).	10500/-	60	300/-
18	Periodic maintenance of Thana Bazar-Mathakhai-Noria Road (Ch 3000-4500m) (Sadar).	9500/-	60	300/-
19	Periodic maintenance of Kazir Bazar-Manumuk Road (Ch 00-1000m) (Sadar).	7500/-	60	300/-
20	Periodic maintenance of Kanakpur-Podibapur Road (Ch 4500-6000m) (Sadar).	9500/-	60	300/-
21	Periodic maintenance of Shahbandar-Maskandi Road (Ch 5200-6200m) (Sadar).	7500/-	60	300/-
22	Periodic maintenance of RHD-Kasari Panditnagar Road (Ch 00-500m) (Rajnagar).	3000/-	45	150/-
23	Periodic maintenance of Rajnagar-Kamigram Road to Bibirmokam Road (Ch 00-260m) (Rajnagar).	2000/-	30	100/-
24	Periodic maintenance of Munshibazar-Kazikhanda Mazar Road (Ch 00-800m) (Rajnagar).	4000/-	45	150/-
25	Periodic maintenance of RHD-Chatra-Darjimalah Road (Ch 00-1000m) (Rajnagar).	4500/-	45	150/-
26	Periodic maintenance of Dewandighi-Kamarchak-Ferryghat Road (Ch 00-500m) (Rajnagar).	2500/-	30	100/-
27	Periodic maintenance of Satgaon-Station Bazar Road (Ch 00-1650m) (Sreemongal).	13000/-	90	500/-
28	Periodic maintenance of Sreemangal-Khejuri Cherra Bazar Road (Ch 00-700m and 10100-10750m) (Sreemongal).	8500/-	60	300/-
29	Periodic maintenance of Sreemangal-Sindurkhan Bazar Road (Ch 00-3000m) (Sreemongal).	20000/-	90	500/-
30	Periodic maintenance of Kathaltali-Madhakunda Road (Ch 00-4000m) (Barlekha).	22000/-	90	500/-
31	Periodic maintenance of Juri Bridge-Amtail via Noyabazar Road (Ch 00-450m) (Barlekha).	2500/-	30	100/-
32	Periodic maintenance of Kathaltali-Madhakunda Road (Ch 4000-7000m) (Barlekha).	18000/-	90	500/-
33	Periodic maintenance of Dasherbazar-Fakirbazar Road (Ch 3000-4000m) (Barlekha).	5500/-	45	150/-
34	Periodic maintenance of Dakshinbhag RHD-Goalbari via Durgapur Road (Ch 00-1800m) (Barlekha).	11000/-	60	300/-
35	Periodic maintenance of Barlekha RHD-Chowmohani-Kanongo Bazar Road (Ch 2200-6300m) (Barlekha).	20000/-	90	500/-
36	Periodic maintenance of Shahbazpur-Railway Station-Sunai River Road (Ch 00-600m) (Barlekha).	3000/-	45	150/-

- Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting : 28 November 2004, 12:00 Noon and office of the undersigned.
- Last date, time and places of selling tender document : 19 December 2004, up to 4:00 PM and
 - Office of the undersigned.
 - The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar/Rajnagar/Kulaura/Barlekha/Komolganj/Srimongol, Dist: Moulvibazar
 - The Deputy Commissioner, Moulvibazar.
 - The Additional Chief Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, Dhaka.
- Last date, time and places of receiving tender : 20 December 2004, up to 1:30 PM and
 - Office of the undersigned.
 - The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Sadar/Rajnagar/Kulaura/Barlekha/Komolganj/Srimongol, Dist: Moulvibazar.
 - The Deputy Commissioner, Moulvibazar.
- Date, time and place of opening of tender : 20 December 2004, 3:30 PM and office of the undersigned.
- Tender shall be valid for a period of 119 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified in Section 2. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in cash/treasury challan/bank draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders.

DFP-26534-4/11/04
G-1077

Executive Engineer
LGED, Moulvibazar

DISPUTE OVER LAND

11 houses ruined by hired goons of influential in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Members of three families at Khagakarbari village in Dimla upazila turned shelterless following attack on them by hired goons of an influential relative of a ruling BNP leader on Thursday.

There had been a longstanding dispute over a bigha (30 decimals) of land between Joshna Begum, wife, of influential Khokon of West Kharbari village and Azizar, Rafiqul and Mijar of Khagakarbari village. Early in the morning on the fateful day, 200 hired musclemen of Khokon equipped with lethal weapons attacked them. They allegedly ruined their five tin-shed rooms and six thatched rooms. They also looted six cows, 10 goats, a shallow water pump and cash amounting to Tk 10 lakh. They beat inmates of the houses sustaining injuries to 20 people including four women. Local people tried to protect the victims, but they gave up in face of life threat.

The injured people are undergoing treatment in Dimla Upazila Health Complex while shelterless inmates passed two consecutive cold nights under open sky.

On information, police arrested



PHOTO: STAR

Female inmates standing beside remnants of their ruined house at Khagakarbari village in Dimla upazila, Nilphamari. Hired musclemen of an influential, also a relative of a local BNP leader allegedly ruined their houses on Thursday following a longstanding dispute over land.

10 persons and recovered four cows and six goats from them.

A case was registered under Rapid Trial Act accusing 55 people.

However, main accused Khokon is absconding.

A platoon of police was deployed to prevent further attack by miscreants.

The Superintendent of Police (SP) of Nilphamari is in touch with latest development.

Pneumonia claims 16 children in Netrakona in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Pneumonia has broken out in an epidemic form in 10 upazilas here.

Sixteen children died and about 2,500 others were attacked by the disease in last seven days, according to Netrakona Civil Surgeon (CS) officesources.

Four children died and 500 others were attacked in Durgapur upazila, four children died and 550 others attacked in Kalmakanda upazila, one child died and 400 others attacked in Kendua upazila, one child died and 200 others attacked in Atpara upazila, one child died and 180 others attacked in Madan upazila, two children died and 450 others were attacked in Netrakona Sadar upazila, one child died and 230 others attacked in Barhatta upazila, 150 children were attacked in Purbadhala upazila and two children died and 270 others were attacked in Mohangonj upazila, the CS office sources told this correspondent.

Scarcity of medicine deteriorated the situation, locals alleged.

However, Netrakona CS Dr Mainuddin Ahmed Chowdhury CS refuted the allegations of scarcity of medicine in government hospitals. He said that the situation is in his control.

But the Upazila Health Officer (UHO) of Durgapur told this correspondent that pneumonia had broken out in an epidemic form at the different villages in the upazila. On average, more than 50 children come to the Durgapur Upazila Health Complex for treatment everyday.

Golam Rabbani, UHO of Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex told that he was facing scarcity of medicine.

Clashes leave 45 hurt in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 45 people were injured, 21 of them were seriously, in separate clashes at Titarkhapara and Nizanduali in Magura Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Police and locals said, two rival groups of villagers, one led by Kamrul Haq and the other by Alaf Mian locked in a clash over occupation of a disputed land injuring 25 people. Both the groups used sharp weapons and sticks during the clash.

Seriously injured persons are Azizul, 33, Younus, 43, Mizanur, 35, Bashir, 25, Shaheh Ali, 45, Masud Rana, 25, Imarat Molla, 70, and Azizur Rahman, 33. They were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

Meanwhile, two other rival groups of villagers in Nizanduali, one led by Fazlur rahman and the other by Sukur Mian clashed over establishment of supremacy in the village sustaining injuries to at least 20 people.

Seriously injured Lavlu 25, Nazul 50, Chand Ali 25, Montu Sheikh 30, Robul 28, Alauddin 33 and Rashed 25 were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

No case was filed.

SNAPS

Highway blocked for two hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least seven vehicles were damaged on the Magura-Jessore Highway by angry villagers after a road accident at Shitarampur village in Sadar upazila on Thursday. The agitating villagers also put up barricade on the highway disrupting traffic for about two hours. Police said, Shariful Molla, 15, son of Rajab Ali of the village died on the spot when a Dhaka-bound bus knocked him down while he was crossing the road. Following the accident, agitating people halted movement of plying vehicles on the highway and damaged at least seven vehicles.

One killed, 15 hurt in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

One person was killed and 15 others including a woman were injured in a clash in a land dispute at Monipur village of Islampur union in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila on Thursday. The dead victim is Mortoz Ali, 45, son Rosuhan Ali Bhuiyan. According to police, eye witness and hospital sources, the clash ensued when a group of people headed by Ikon Mia and Tojil Islam of Monipur village went to a disputed land for the purpose of tilling.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director

Road Network Improvement & Maintenance Project-I
Roads and Highways Department
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

Road Maintenance and Improvement Project
ADB Loan No. 1789/1790 (BAN)

Expression of Interest

Memo No: RNIMP-1/2892

Dated: 03-11-2004

1.0 The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Road Maintenance Improvement Project (hereinafter referred to as the 'Project'), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for the Feasibility and Detailed Design for the 4-Lanning Access Controlled Dhaka-Chittagong Portion of the National Highway No. 1.

2.0 The Roads and Highways Department's (hereinafter referred to as the 'Employer') now invites Expression of Interests (EOI) from internationally reputed eligible consulting firms, or joint ventures of consulting firms, from ADB's member countries, and listed in ADB's Database of Consulting firms (DACON), for short listing for the Consultancy Services for the Feasibility and Detailed Design for the 4-Lanning Access Controlled Dhaka-Chittagong Portion of the National Highway No. 1.

3.0 The consultant will be responsible for:
i. preparation of a feasibility study for the 4-Lanning Access Controlled Dhaka-Chittagong Portion of the National Highway No. 1, including assessment of and proposal for private-public partnership;
ii. detailed engineering design,
iii. procurement documents, and
iv. concession proposal with bidding documents and contracts for the private-public partnership.

The environmental impact assessment, socio-economic impact assessment, land acquisition and resettlement action plan, and poverty impact study is at present excluded, and part of a proposed separately financed ADB TA. The consultant should however liaise and work in close coordination with the separate TA for the safeguard compliance.

Interested eligible firms may obtain additional information from the project office at Sarak Bhaban, RHD:

Mr. Gyas Uddin Ahmed
Project Director (ACE), RIMP
Room No-417, Block-C
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: +880-2-717 0116
Fax: +880-2-716 8627
Email: ahmedg@rhd.gov.bd

4.0 International competitive bidding will be conducted, and selection will be made in accordance with ADB's Quality- and Cost-based Selection procedure, following ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants by Asian Development Bank and Its Borrower.

5.0 The employer has requested ADB to conduct the short-listing of interested consultant firms for the above-mentioned consultancy services. The EOI should specifically include:

Background of the firm(s) (limited to one page);

General and overall experience of the firm(s) (limited to one page);

Summary of similar projects undertaken (limited to three pages);

Summary of similar projects undertaken in the country or region (limited to three pages);

Audited financial reports of the firm(s) for the last three years;

Nature, size, employer, location, and type of input for contracts in hand (limited to three pages); and

Summary of permanent professional employees with key qualifications (limited to one page).

6. EOI with supporting documents must be delivered at or before 16:00 on 27 December 2004, in sealed envelopes, marked with "EOI for the Consultancy Services for the Feasibility and Detailed Design for the 4-Lanning Access Controlled Dhaka-Chittagong Portion of the National Highway No. 1", and be delivered to below address. Late submissions will be rejected.

Asian Development Bank
Bangladesh Resident Mission

ATT: Mr. Stefan Ekelund

Plot # E-31, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.

7.0 The consultants, who have submitted their EOI for short listing before publishing this invitation, are requested to submit their EOI again, and in accordance with this invitation.

The earlier submitted EOIs, if any, will not be considered for short listing.

8.0 The request for proposal to submit detailed technical and financial proposal is expected to be issued to the short listed consultant firms in February 2005. The employer or ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firms in connection with the preparation or delivery of the EOI.

Gyas Uddin Ahmed
Project Director (ACE), RNIMP-1
Roads and Highways Department
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.

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