

450MW BIBIYANA POWER PLANT Final bid submission deferred by 5 weeks

UNB, Dhaka

Final bid submission date for 450 MW Bibiyana Power Plant has been deferred by five weeks responding to the plea from the prospective bidders.

Now the bidders will have to submit their final bids on July 15 instead of June 7, 2008.

A senior official of the Power Cell said they have deferred the submission date due to requests from two of the four qualified bidders.

He said the US-based AES Corporation and Chevron have made the requests separately to defer the bid submission date by two months. "But we have deferred by 37 days," he said.

After the pre-qualifying round bidding held in December last year, four international firms have been eligible to submit their final tender-offers for the proposed plant.

The pre-qualified bidders are Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) of South Korea, AES Corporation of the USA, Chevron Corporation of the USA, the consortium of Powertek Berhad of Malaysia and Siemens Project Ventures GmbH of Germany.

Later, the KEPCO and Powertek made a joint venture move to submit their bids.

The Power Cell had asked the pre-qualified bidders to submit the financial and technical offers as final bids to the government under

the Request for Proposal (RFP) format.

As per the bidding conditions, the successful bidder will have to implement the Bibiyana Power project on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis as independent power producer (IPP) in accordance with the Private Sector Power Generation Policy 2004.

The state-owned Power Development Board (PDB) will purchase electricity from the plant for about 22 years.

Earlier, the Power Ministry had initiated the move for setting up three large-scale IPP projects: 450MW Sirajganj plant, 450MW Meghnaghat phase-III plant, and the 450MW Bibiyana plant.

But a Power Ministry source said of the three projects, they are giving priority to Bibiyana as natural gas is already available there.

Bibiyana power plant will be installed at a location close to the existing Bibiyana gas field in Habiganj.

Bibiyana is the first large-scale power project for which the caretaker government initiated the physical move for implementation to end a nagging power crisis in the country.

The World Bank has made a commitment to finance the project while its private sector window -- International Finance Corporation (IFC) -- has been working as an adviser to assist the Power Cell in dealing with the tender process.

Special city traffic arrangement on Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has made some city roads off-limits to traffic for 16 hours from 5:00am today to mark the Pahela Baishakh, the first day of

Bangla New Year.

Owners and drivers of vehicles have also been asked to use alternative routes for the day.

The road stretches, made off-limits, are Bangla Motors crossings to Shahbagh via Sheraton Hotel,

TSC to Doyel Square and the Supreme Court crossings, Shahbagh to Kadam crossing via Matsya Bhaban, Sheraton Hotel to Hare Road and Kakrail Masjid crossings and lanes.

Vehicles intending to use Mirpur-Gulistan-Jatrabari route via Farmgate have been asked to use the Moghbazar-Kakrail Church Road taking a left turn from Sonargaon Hotel crossings for both the journeys. Vehicles can also use the Moghbazar-Malibagh route turning left from the Bangla Motors crossings.

Vehicles intending to use Mohammadpur-Motijheel-Jatrabari route have been asked to use Sonargaon-Bangla Motors-Mogh-bazar-Malibagh route for both ways.

Vehicles planning to use Tongi-Gulistan-Sayedabad route have been asked to use Pragati Sarani-Rampura-Malibagh route and the Khilgaon flyover.

Vehicles planning to use Gulistan-Dhamrai-Manikganj route have been asked to use Mirpur Road via Azimpur-Gora Shaheed shrine- Chankarpool and Dhakeshwari temple.

Meanwhile, the DMP in another press release has requested people not to carry handbags while visiting different venues for Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

The vehicles should be parked in specified places, it added.



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customerservice@waridtel.com.bd | www.waridtel.com.bd
Helpline: 786 ☎ +88 016 78600786