

Risky living in shaky buildings

50 families of Patuakhali power company staff staying in 12 ramshackle quarters

Sohrab Hossain, Patuakhali

Over 50 families are living amid life risk in 12 buildings of the staff quarters of Patuakhali West Zone Power Distribution Company (former Power Development Board) in the town as the structures are in dilapidated condition due to lack of renovation in over 40 years.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found the buildings in a bad shape.

Often chunks of plaster from roofs and walls fall off while rainwater easily enters the rooms during the rains.

Most of the doors and windows are badly damaged and many of them have been removed, said Shamsul Alam Chowdhury, a resident of the staff quarters.

"There was no major repair or renovation work after the buildings were built in 1970s. We are still staying at these quarters amid risks

living at rented houses outside would cost much higher than the official rent here, which is 20 percent of our basic salaries," he added.

"We use polythene sheets in rooms for protection from rain water. We live amid fear as the building may collapse any time," said housewife Shamsunnahar Begum, a resident.

"We urged the authorities concerned to take step for renovation of these buildings but they told us of fund constraints," said Abdus Sobahan Mia, another resident.

Abdus Salek Khan, executive engineer of Patuakhali West Zone Power Distribution Company, said, "Hopefully these buildings will be renovated very soon as we sent several letters to the higher authority to take immediate step in this regard."

"As a better alternative, we also sent a proposal to build new buildings to replace these old ones," he said.



This ramshackle building, like several others comprising the staff quarters of West Zone Power Distribution Company in Patuakhali town, still serves as the dwelling place for the employees, posing risk of serious accidents anytime.

PHOTO: STAR

Maize replacing tobacco

Agri officials, NGOs create awareness among Lalmonirhat farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Farmers in the district have increased maize cultivation and reduced tobacco farming this year due to the joint efforts of agriculture officials and NGOs to raise their awareness about the bad impact of tobacco farming.

Tobacco was cultivated on 11,500 hectares of land in the district last year, which dropped to 8,300 hectares this year. Maize was cultivated on 19,700 hectares last year, while it is 23,200 hectares this year, said an official of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat.

Farmer Zahurul Islam, 52, of Digholtari village in Aditmari upazila, said he cultivated tobacco on eight bighas of land last year, but he cultivated maize this year as he has realised that tobacco farming is harmful for humans and also for the fertility of the soil.



Two farmers work in a maize field in Digholtari village of Aditmari upazila.

Soleman Miah, 55, of Hajiganj village said they can earn profit Tk 6,000 to Tk 7,000 from farming maize on one bigha of land, and Tk 9,000 to Tk 10,000 from tobacco farming, adding that he has cultivated maize on six bighas of land where tobacco was cultivated for the last 15 years as tobacco is a harmful crop.

Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance member Milon Patwary said they hoped that tobacco farming would decrease further by next year.

DAE Deputy Director in Lalmonirhat Bidubhuson Roy said agriculture officials always encourage farmers to cultivate maize and other crops instead of tobacco.

Fog halts ferry services

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia route resumed yesterday after four hours of disruption triggered by dense fog.

The authorities stopped plying of the ferries around 6:00am, causing immense sufferings to hundreds of passengers, said Shafiqul Islam, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Daulatdia office.

Fourteen ferries anchored at Paturia ferry ghat while two others were forced to anchor at Daulatdia ferry ghat for hours.

Passengers, especially children and women, of 21 south and south western districts were the worst sufferers.

The ferry service resumed around 10:00am after the fog cleared, Shafiqul said.

ASSAULT OF SCHOOL TEACHER

UP member yet to be arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The union parishad member, who allegedly beat up a teacher in Bhaluka upazila of the district on Tuesday, is yet to be arrested.

Headmaster Shah Mohammad Abdul Matin lodged a case with Bhaluka Police Station on the day, accusing Md Harun-ur-Rashid, member of Panchgaon ward in Dakatia union of Bhaluka, for assaulting Hafiz Uddin, an assistant teacher of Panchgaon Sunrise High School.

Harun, also a member of the

school managing committee, entered a classroom of the school and demanded money from the school fund from Hafiz, who looks after it. As Hafiz refused, Harun beat him up, the headmaster added.

Hafiz was admitted to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex and released the next day, locals said.

Officer-in-Charge of Bhaluka Police Station Mamun-ur-Rashid said police drives are on to arrest the accused. Harun went into hiding soon after the incident, the OC said.

Career Opportunity



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Interested candidates may send their resume on or before **January 15, 2017** to the address below indicating the position applied for on the top left of the envelope. Email applications are encouraged to career@amefird.com.bd

Human Resource Department
American & Efird (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Camellia Tower (4th Floor), Plot 9, Road 13, Sector 4, Uttara, Dhaka.

Vacancy Announcement

CONCERN
worldwide

Concern Worldwide is a non-governmental, international, humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries. With its head quarter in Ireland, Concern has been working in Bangladesh since 1972. Concern, in a consortium partnership with BRAC is initiating a new Urban health and nutrition project titled: "Improving Health and Nutrition Status of Urban Extreme Poor in Bangladesh Through Sustainable Health Service Provision" funded by the European Union. This project will be implemented in Dhaka South, Dhaka North and Chittagong City Corporations and in Mymensingh Municipality till November 2019. Concern is looking for suitable candidates for the following positions based in Dhaka:

Job Title	No. post	Job Summary	Major Requirement
Consortium Manager	01	The Consortium Manager is senior management level position responsible for leading the Concern-BRAC partnership consortium project. S/he will coordinate with BRAC, MoHFW, Local Government Division of MOLGRD&C, All Party parliamentary group (APPG) and Donors at national levels. S/he will lead a highly technical team and oversee the project work in targeted City Corporation and Municipality. The successful candidate will also ensure quality technical support to project partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masters' in Public Health (MPH), Health System Management, Business Management or relevant discipline Minimum of 12 years' experience working in health and nutrition sector, including at least 7 years of experience of working at senior level. Experience of working on urban health and nutrition and health system strengthening is preferred. Proven experience of leading and managing large and complex donor projects. Proven experience and competence of working with high level policy makers of MOHFW, MOLGRD and other ministries. Excellent knowledge of National and International health and nutrition policy and guidelines and working experience with health system.
Health Advisor	01	The Health Advisor is a senior position responsible for providing strategic and technical support to partners NGOs, City Corporations and NGO run health facilities in implementation of health component of the project. S/he will lead policy advocacy on urban health and will work with MoHFW and MOLGRD for mobilising their support and collaboration for the provision of equitable and quality urban health and nutrition services for the urban extreme poor. S/he will be coordinating with partner BRAC and with 3 City Corporations (Dhaka N & S and Chittagong) and 1 Municipality (Mymensingh) to ensure quality support to project partners in health activities, which will impact on the lives of the extreme poor and result in bringing about lasting positive changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Public health or equivalent. Clinical degree preferred. At least 8 years of experience in the area of community based health program planning, management, implementation, monitoring and capacity building with at least 5 years of working experience at senior technical and/or managerial role. Proven experience of leading and managing large primary health care project. Proven experience of working with high level stakeholders including government ministries and donors.
Nutrition Advisor	01	The Nutrition Advisor is a senior position responsible for providing strategic guidance and technical support to ensure effective implementation of the nutrition component of the project. He/she will provide strategic and technical support to implementing partners, 3 City Corporations (Dhaka & Chittagong) and Mymensingh Municipality in implementation of maternal and child nutrition interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masters in Nutrition/ Public health and nutrition or relevant discipline. At least 8 years progressively responsible work experience in the area of community based nutrition programme planning, management, implementation, monitoring and capacity building Experience of working in urban health and nutrition project/programme preferred Experience in working in partnership with NGOs and with government institutions
Financial Services Advisor	01	The Financial Services Advisor is a senior position will be responsible for adaptation and/or development of innovative financial support schemes and prepayment schemes for the extreme poor to enable them to access health care services in the urban areas. The successful candidate will work with financial institutions, City Corporations/Municipalities, ministries, health Service delivery NGOs to explore options and guide the project team for implementation of planned activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masters in Finance/ MBA At least 10 years progressively responsible work experience in the area of financial programme planning, Micro -Insurance Scheme management, implementation, monitoring and capacity building Technical knowledge on financial policy, Micro-Insurance and interventions Experience in working with partner NGOs and government institutions
Nutrition Coordinator	01	The Nutrition Coordinator is responsible for providing technical support to the Urban Health and Nutrition project. He/she will provide support to implementing partners in 3 City Corporations (Dhaka & Chittagong) and Mymensingh Municipality in field related to maternal and child nutrition within the Urban Health and Nutrition Project and ensure support to project partners to implement project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masters in Nutrition/ Public health and nutrition or relevant discipline. At least 5 years progressively responsible work experience in the area of community based nutrition programme planning, management, implementation, monitoring and capacity building Experience of working in urban health and nutrition project/programme preferred Technical knowledge and skill to provide guidance to field staff on community based nutrition interventions
M&E Specialist	01	The M & E Specialist - Urban Health and Nutrition Project is responsible for the quality of the M & E work, ensuring that it captures the impact, outcomes, outputs and activities of the projects under the Urban programme and to ensure that M & E support is adequately provided to the project on M & E best practices, tools, and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Degree in social science from a recognized University with major in M&E and or MIS system and or research related subject or training/diploma in M&E and or MIS system. At least 5 years progressively responsible work experience in the area of M&E in development organizations with a strong understanding of M&E principles and processes, including results-based management, quantitative and qualitative tools and methodologies, reporting etc. Competent in quantitative research and statistical analysis, including the use of statistical analysis software such as SPSS, Stata, or R Programming
Advocacy Officer	01	The Advocacy Officer is responsible for driving and energising advocacy issues of the Urban Health and Nutrition Project and helping to fulfil Concern's commitment to poor people by delivering high quality impact and sustainable change in the lives of extremely poor people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masters in Social Science, Communications, English Language, Development Studies, Statistics, or relevant discipline At least 5 years working experience in relevant field Experience in project monitoring and evaluation using appropriate tools with excellent quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills using MS ACCESS and SPSS

For Detailed Job Descriptions & Requirements: Please visit www.bdjjobs.com

If you feel that your qualification and experience matches with our requirements, and you have a shared commitment to Concern's values, please forward an updated CV along with cover letter justifying your suitability to: Concern Worldwide, Human Resources Department, House # 15 SW (D), Road # 07, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212 or by email to: recruitment.bgd@concern.net

Concern values diversity in the workplace and is a committed equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from all suitable candidates regardless of gender, race, family or marital status, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability, class, caste or religion. Anyone working for Concern must agree to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Concern Staff Code of Conduct and the Programme Participant Protection Policy. Each of which is intended to ensure the appropriate behaviour of Concern staff and ensure the maximum protection of programme participants. As per Concern policy, any staff member can be assigned to emergency response at any time.

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

Concern has a Code of Conduct and a Programme Participant Protection Policy to ensure the maximum protection of programme participants from abuse and exploitation.

Please mark the position applied for on the envelope OR in the email subject line.

Any canvassing will result in disqualification

Closing date for applications: **January 17, 2017**

Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview

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