

Cox's BAZAR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE Community's interests should get priority: people's court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A people's court asked Bangladesh government to ensure the protection of marine biodiversity and ecology alongside ensuring the rights of resource-dependent coastal communities when implementing any projects related to the blue economy.

A group of rights activists from different countries organised the virtual people's court on Monday.

Environmental Activist and Food Sovereignty Advocate Dr Vandana Shiva; Former UN Rapporteur Anand Grover from India; Executive Director of Abika Uhaki Foundation Ezar Mbogiri from

Kenya, and Executive Committee member of Naripokko, Sheerin Parvin Huq from Bangladesh were in the jury board.

People of different professions from Cox's Bazar presented their recent situation to the court. "Local labourers should be hired in Special Economic Zone and the government should arrange shelter for people displaced due to this project," said Mamunul Haque, a resident of Moreshkhali near Special Economic Zone.

"Small-scale fishers are unable to catch enough fish as big trawlers are catching most of the stock," said Md Abdul Halim, a deep-sea fisheries worker from Cox's Bazar.

Bangladesh to

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trap, which actually is not right. The country's borrowing from China is only 6.5 percent while only 1.3 percent from India. Also, the cost of borrowing is only 1.3 percent that would not shoot up, he said.

"We will become a developed nation, a Shonar Bangla by 2041," Momen said.

He said Bangladesh will hold seminars and exhibitions in over 60 Bangladesh missions, where Bangabandhu Centers were established, next year to showcase Bangladesh, her achievements and the values of peace and tolerance. Besides, two outstanding diplomats -- one Bangladeshi and another foreign diplomat in Bangladesh -- will be recognised with gold medal.

Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said Bangabandhu was a visionary leader not only of Bangladesh, but of the world, who preached his ideals for the world's deprived people. In his address to the UN, he spoke half the time for the people of Africa.

Bangabandhu dreamt of a secular, just and democratic society where all people have freedom -- ideals that led to the creation of Bangladeshi based not on religion, but of language and culture.

"Bangabandhu was so farsighted that he enacted the maritime law in 1974 and we had only a few things to amend in 2014 before delimiting our maritime boundary," Muhith said.

Shockingly, the "agents of Pakistan" assassinated the great leader, he said.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gawher Rizvi highlighted the necessity of forming Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (Bksal), saying had Bangabandhu lived a little longer, the country could have reached the goal of Sonar Bangla long before.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam also spoke at the event, attended by diplomats from home and abroad, academics and journalists.

CITY

DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 17, 1427 BS

Entrepreneurs

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Of them, there are 52 entrepreneurs in DSCC's 75 wards (57 old, 18 new) and 41 in DNCC's 54 wards (36 old and 18 new), according to city corporation officials.

a2i programme and the local administration chose entrepreneurs for the CDCs to provide digital services to citizens, such as filing job applications online, making online payments for passport, trade license etc.

They would provide such services to people in their assigned ward in exchange of a fixed rate decided by a2i and the city corporations.

There should be one digital centre in every ward with two entrepreneurs, one man and one woman, with the councillors' office.

LGD GUIDELINE REMAINS IGNORED

A 2014 circular from LGD to city corporations outlines the guidelines on how the digital centres would run its activities and how the city corporations would support the entrepreneurs.

Under the guideline, the city corporations were supposed to choose the entrepreneurs and provide them with a designated space along with necessary equipment and ensure safety, arrange for loans at a low rate of interest, and arrange necessary training for their skill development.

It also says city corporations will prioritise the entrepreneurs' services if needed for the corporations' own work.

Moreover, it reads that to monitor the digital centres' activities, there should be a monitoring committee in the ward level with the councillor as head of the committee.

However, the reality does not reflect these guidelines. Many councillors are completely unaware of these. Entrepreneurs don't have any space provided by the city corporations. Therefore, they set up their own digital centres separately from the councillor's office.

THE ENTREPRENEURS' WOES

DNCC City Digital Centre Entrepreneur Forum's president Zahirul Islam alleged that computers, laptops, printers and other equipment were provided by a2i and city corporations for the entrepreneurs two years ago, but they didn't get those as the councillors' offices kept those.

"We are the entrepreneurs and we are there to provide services at the ward level. But unfortunately, personnel in the ward level don't know anything about us," he complained.

The forum's vice president Zahir Islam said he was supposed to be the entrepreneur of ward-1 but when he went to its councillor Afsar Uddin Khan, he didn't receive any help.

"When I approached him, he didn't allow any space for me and treated me badly. It seemed he

was not aware of the Digital Centre initiative. Then I applied to the city corporation's CEO to change my ward and I set up my digital centre in ward-2 on my own," he alleged.

Same condition prevails in DSCC. Its entrepreneur forum president, Halim Sarker Himel, said, "Most of the entrepreneurs of DSCC complained to us that councillors didn't allow them any space in their offices. Besides, we heard that Tk 62 lakh had been sanctioned for the entrepreneurs by DSCC before its current mayor took over the office. But none of that allocation has reached us, it appears."

Moreover, UDC got computers, printers and other essential materials but the CDCs didn't get those. Therefore, people in the ward levels are being deprived of digital services," added Halim.

DSCC ward-19 entrepreneur Aklima Chowdhury also shared her bitter experience. "When we asked the councillor for office space, he rejected us and even threatened us several times. We informed the city corporation and later got an office inside a shopping complex at Ramna."

"But it was on the roof and most of the time, the room was occupied by the councillor's men. They continuously took up space in our office. It was difficult for me run the digital centre this way," she said.

"Even when I was pregnant, I had to walk up the stairs to the 6th floor. It was difficult. I now feel discouraged to run the service at times," said Aklima, adding that she would move to a separate office on her own if she found one within her budget.

Other entrepreneurs from DSCC and DNCC recounted similar experiences. They also alleged that councillors want to keep their own men as entrepreneurs to run the digital centres, instead of the entrepreneurs selected by the a2i programme and city corporations. Therefore, the councillors are unwilling to extend their support, alleged the entrepreneurs.

When asked if they filed any complaint, they said filing complaints against the councillors wouldn't be a good idea considering the power they have locally. Hence many of them refrained for filing complaints.

Some entrepreneurs informed a2i personnel and city corporation officers regarding the matter, but no effective solution could be reached, they said.

DNCC ward-1 Councillor Afsar Uddin Khan was contacted about the digital centre in his area, but he appeared completely unaware of the initiative and said, "Let me call you back. I'll let you know if there is such initiative around my area."

Same thing happened when this correspondent called DNCC ward-17 Councillor Md Ishak Mia. At first he said that everything in his ward is digitally operated.

When asked about the entrepreneurs, he handed the phone to the ward's secretary Lutfur Rahman Halim, who said, "Our councillor is newly elected. We'll get back to you if any such entrepreneurs are there and digital centre exists in our ward."

VAGUE REASSURANCE FROM AUTHORITIES
Kamal Hossain Saikat, national consultant of the a2i programme, said, "Those who became new councillors are not aware of the initiative. But they will know soon."

When asked why there's no monitoring committee headed by the councillors as per the guideline, he replied, "As we already monitor them directly from a2i programme and monitor their income and performance, councillors do not need to interfere that much."

"We can see how much they earn along with other data through our online system from here and based on that, we evaluate their performance and arrange training if needed," he added.

When asked about the entrepreneurs' complaints against the councillors and whether they tried to solve those matters, he said from their a2i programme, they inform the city corporations. The city corporation officials should act if there are any complaints, he said.

He then suggested this correspondent to speak with city corporation authorities.

The focal person for the entrepreneurs at DSCC, Abu Taiyeb Rokon said, "Right now we don't have any complaints regarding councillors. However, in the beginning there were complaints."

"Our mayor has plans to strengthen the digital centres. Soon DSCC will hold an introduction meeting with the councillors and entrepreneurs so that both parties have a strong connection," added Rokon, also a system analyst of DSCC.

When asked about the budget for the entrepreneurs from DSCC, he said, "No money was spent for digital centres in previous years. However, this year we have allocated Tk 10 lakh for its development."

Regarding the gap between councillors and entrepreneurs, DNCC Secretary Rabindra Sri Barua said, "Councillors from new wards might not know about the digital centres but this will be solved in a few years."

Asked about the entrepreneurs' complaints that they didn't get any laptops or printers, he commented, "If there's any gap we'll have to address it and city corporation will take steps."

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any or all of the following tenders, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

1. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at proposed premises of our **Tengra Bazar Branch, Moulvibazar**.
2. Civil, Electrical & Networking works of our proposed **Sujanagar uposhakha under Pabna Branch, Pabna**.
3. Civil, Electrical & Networking works of our proposed **Charbhadrasan uposhakha under Sadarpur Branch, Faridpur**.
4. Civil & Electrical works for exterior design of our **Dhaka Stadium Corporate Branch, Dhaka**.
5. Electrical renovation works at Flat#5 of Building#2 of Pubali Bank Officers Quarter, Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka.
6. Supply & installation of Air Coolers at our (i) **Nanupur Branch, Chattogram** (ii) **Charbhadrasan uposhakha under Sadarpur Branch, Faridpur**.

Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by **10 December 2020** duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer in the Tender Box by **13 December 2020** (before 11.00 A.M). Tender will be opened on **13 December 2020** at 11:30 A.M.

(Dilip Kumar Paul)
General Manager



ESTABLISHMENT DIVISION
Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1
Level-12 (West side), Probashi Kollayan Bhaban
Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 26.00.0000.066.07.0270.20-451

Date: 01/12/2020

Request for Expressions of Interest (Consulting Firm)

Name of the Service: Selection of Consulting Firm (National) for "designing and establishing a web based Women Traders Networking System (database preparation and maintenance) of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1"

Name of the Project: Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1, Ministry of Commerce.

Credit No. 60020, Project ID No. 154580

Reference number: BRCP/MOC/SD-22

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an SDR 150 million Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group – for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. The second component of this umbrella project is being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce as a separate technical assistance project. The overall objective of this technical assistance project is to strengthen trade related institutional capacity in order to ensure active and sustainable cooperation between multiple trade-related stakeholders and economic empowerment of women traders.

This technical assistance project intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring consultancy services from qualified consulting firm (national) to prepare and maintenance of a database of women traders in Bangladesh. While many women farmers are involved in horticulture, aquaculture, livestock, poultry and cottage industries, their contribution to economy are not accounted for due to lack of information. The project will develop a database of women traders and entrepreneurs who are involved in income generating activities. This will also facilitate networking of women traders, facilitate decision making in the government and appraising the foreign importers about the potential of women traders in Bangladesh.

The Project Implementation Unit BRCP-1-MOC on behalf of the Ministry of Commerce invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, general qualifications, description of similar assignments, general experience in similar conditions, financial capability, number of key staff and so forth as per TOR). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. Details of the qualification requirements and responsibilities are available in TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18 of the World Bank Group's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, Procurement in Investment Project Financing, Goods, Works, Non-consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank Group's policy on conflict of interest. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the CONSULTANT'S QUALIFICATION-BASED SELECTION (CQS) (Lump-sum Contract) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Terms of Reference (TOR) will be available in the office of the undersigned and also at [www.mincom.gov.bd](http://mincom.gov.bd) and <http://brcp-1.gov.bd>. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (i.e. 09.00 to 17.00 hours). Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written from 2 (two) copies (one original and one copy) and one soft copy (in MS Word) in sealed envelope to the address below (in person, or by mail) by **12.30pm on December 20, 2020**.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Md. Mijanur Rahman
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Phone: +880-55138022
E-mail: pd@brcp1moc@gmail.com

GD-1918

Interfaith

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"That will be made more dynamic," he hoped.

Saying that the Islamic Foundation is constructing a total of 560 model mosques and Islamic culture centers at district and upazila levels, he said the activities undertaken by the government for the welfare of Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities would be further enhanced.

The state minister sought cooperation and constructive advice of journalists as a bridge to convey the aspirations of the people to the government and to inform the people about the activities and services of the government.

Dhaka School of Economics (DScE)

(Constituent Institution of the University of Dhaka)

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The DScE is a centre of excellence in different branches of economics and related subjects

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dhaka School of Economics (DScE), a constituent institution of the University of Dhaka invites applications for the following post.

No.	Post	Requirements
1.	Assistant Professor: Development Economics (1position)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MA/MSS/MS in Economics/ Development Economics with BA/BSS/BSc (Hons) in Economics and at least two research publications in peer reviewed journals. Candidates must have 1st classes in both Bachelor with honors and Master Degrees or GPA/CGPA 3.50 out of 4 and at least GPA 4.25 out of 5.00 or equivalent at secondary and higher secondary levels. Minimum 3 years relevant teaching and research experience in a university or an institute of advanced research for announced post. Preference will be given to candidates who have Ph.D.

Organizing new programmes and guiding programme curriculum according to the rules of the University of Dhaka will be part of the responsibilities for all the teaching posts.

Salary to be offered will depend on qualifications and fulfillment of requirements.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with 2 copies of duly signed CVs, 2 (two) recent passport size photographs and attested copies of relevant certificates to the undersigned or submit through email (dsce.bd@gmail.com) on or before 20 December, 2020 during office hours.

Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Head of Admin, Development and Academic Affairs

