

Poachers on the prowl in Lawachhara National Park

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Poaching of wildlife is alarmingly on the rise in Lawachhara National Park under Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila.

Locals and wildlife activists fear that with different types of traps being found in large numbers in the forest in recent times, rare animal species that are found only in Lawachhara might face extinction soon.

The Lawachhara National Park, on only 1,250 hectares of land, is one of the last patches of the country's tropical forests where nearly 460 species of flora and fauna thrive, according to data from Department of Forest.

Ecology and wildlife in a protected area including national parks is protected under Article 23 (3) of the 'Bangladesh Wild Life (Preservation) Order 1973', which states: "Firing any

gun or doing any other act, which may disturb any wild animal or doing any act, which may interfere with the breeding places of any wild animal, is prohibited."

Ignoring the law, poachers are active in the forest and setting up net or wire traps on bamboo sticks after the sun goes down, locals told this correspondent.

Deer or other wild animals, foraging for food or prey in the forest, easily get caught in the traps at night. Poachers usually enter Lawachhara through unprotected Radhanagar, Doluchhara and Jerin areas and they are mostly after deer meat (venison), horns and hides. Some of them also catch rabbits, said the locals.

In localities around the forest, venison is high in demand and is sold openly for about Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500 each kilogram, said a local who



A wire trap set up with the support of bamboo sticks in Lawachhara National Park under Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Ignoring the law, poachers are active in the forest and setting up net or wire traps on bamboo sticks after the sun goes down, and deer or other wild animals, foraging for food or prey in the forest, easily get caught in the traps at night.

requested anonymity.

Different syndicates of poachers help each other out in selling a rare animal such as barking deer, he also said.

Shamsul Haque, joint convener of 'Lawachhara Bon O Jiboboichitro

Rokkha Andolan', said he found 20 to 25 wire traps set up in Daluchhara area of the forest where barking deer roam for Bahera and Haritaki fruits.

He also said he had heard howling of a barking deer on the night of December

28. The next morning, after he went in the forest, he found deer footprints and signs of struggle near a trap.

Abdul Karim Kim, Sylhet Chapter member secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan (BAPA), said a section of locals with the connivance of forest department employees are involved in the poaching of protected wild animals.

Contacted, Divisional Forest Officer Rezaul Karim Chowdhury of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Sylhet said it is quite a challenging task to patrol the park 24 hours a day with the present patrol crew of only 10.

While they intend to take necessary measures to protect wildlife in the national park, they feel that the higher authorities should urgently empower the Division with a workforce that would be adequate, well-trained and well-equipped, he added.

Lawachhara is a natural breeding ground for many wildlife species and like many of them had gone extinct already, more species will face the same fate unless the poaching of wild animals there is stopped immediately, said Dr Narayan Saha, professor of Forestry and Environmental Science at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

Woman killed in broad daylight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman was stabbed to death in broad daylight by one of her relatives allegedly over a trivial matter in Joypurhat town yesterday.

The deceased, Masuma Begum, 40, was wife of Seyed Ali of Khonjanpur area under Joypurhat municipality.

Meanwhile, locals caught Rabikul Hasan, 30, son of Abu Sufian of the area, from the spot and handed him over to the police.

Police said Rabikul borrowed Tk 2000 from his aunt Masuma a month ago and was delaying to return the money.

An altercation occurred between them over the issue around 11:00am yesterday, and at one stage, Rabikul stabbed Masuma indiscriminately with a sharp weapon. Injured Masuma died on her way to Joypurhat Modern Hospital the same noon.

Chapainawabganj growers eye bumper mustard yield

Around 16,720 hectares of land in 5 upazilas have been brought under the cultivation this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Farmers and agriculture officials in Chapainawabganj are expecting a bumper yield of mustard in the current season due to favourable weather.

Easy cultivation process and lower production cost compared to other Robi crops is also a reason behind popularity of mustard cultivation among the farmers in the district.

October to mid-November is the suitable time for mustard cultivation and it takes 80 to 85 days to get the yield, said, AKM Monjure Mowla, additional deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Chapainawabganj.

The farmers in the district have cultivated mustard on 16,720 hectares of land against the DAE's target of 15,500 hectares of land.

Of the mustard fields, 5,090 hectares are in Sadar upazila, 3,700



A mustard field in Poolpara village in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

hectares in Shibganj upazila, 2,165 hectares in Gomostapur upazila, 755 hectares in Bholahat upazila and 5,010 hectares in Nachole upazila.

Most of the lands are covered with varieties developed by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), including BARI Sharisha-9, BARI Sharisha-11, BARI Sharisha-13, BARI Sharisha-16 and BARI Sharisha-17.

A few local varieties have also been

cultivated, said Mowla.

Depending on soil condition, the cultivation of mustard requires only one or two times irrigation while about Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000 is needed to cultivate the crop on one bigha.

On an average six maunds of mustard is produced on a bigha of land, the official said.

The DAE authorities are trying to persuade the farmers to cultivate high yielding varieties of mustard invented by BARI between the gaps of Aman and Boro to earn profit.

Farmers in Sadar upazila said they are hopeful to get bumper production of mustard. Harvest will begin in next month.

Yousuf Ali of Kansina village in Sadar upazila said, "I have cultivated eight bighas of land, spending Tk over 14,000. I expect to get at least 48 maunds from the land. I will sell each maund for Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000."



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Environment
Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-Prone Barind Tract and Haor "Wetland" Area Project (EbA Project)
Poribesh Bhaban Old Building, 2nd Floor, Room: 304
E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
www.doe.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of short term Individual Consultant (International)

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ministry/Division | : | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| 2. | Agency | : | Department of Environment (DoE) |
| 3. | Client (Procuring Entity) Name | : | Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali, Project Director, EbA project |
| 4. | Client (Procuring Entity) Code | : | |
| 5. | Client (Procuring Entity) District | : | Dhaka |
| 6. | Expression of Interest for selection of | : | Short term Individual Consultant (International) Full Project Period but split into different phases |
| 7. | EoI Ref No | : | 22.02.0000.111.14.012.20-19 |
| 8. | Date | : | 30 December 2020 |

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|---------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Funding Information | | | |
| 9. | Source of Funds | : | LDCF of Global Environment Facility (GEF) |
| 10. | Development Partners | : | GEF-UNEP |

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|------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Particular Information | | | |
| 11. | Project Code | : | 009869 |
| 12. | Project Name | : | Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-Prone Barind Tract and Haor "Wetland" Area Project (EbA Project) |
| 13. | EoI Closing Date and Time | : | 25 January 2021, 02:30 pm Bangladesh Time |

| Information for Applicants: | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| Package No. | Name of Position | Number of Position | Duration Man Days (md) | Educational Qualifications and ToR* |
| SD-6 | International Technical Advisor | 1 (one) | 150 md | At least an advanced post-graduate degree, preferably a PhD in Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Vulnerability, Conservation of Land Resources and Land Use Planning or related disciplines such as Natural Resources Management/Agriculture/Forestry/Soil and Water Resources Management. |
| | International EbA Expert | 1 (one) | 70 md | At least an advanced post-graduate degree, preferably PhD in Climate Change Adaptation or related disciplines such as Environmental Vulnerability and Management/Natural Resources Management/Ecosystem-based Adaptation/Agriculture/Forestry/Soil and Water Resources Management. |

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Procuring Entity (Client) Details | |
| 14. | Name of Official Inviting EoI : Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali |
| 15. | Designation of Official Inviting EoI : Project Director, EbA Project |
| 16. | Address of Official Inviting EoI : Department of Environment Poribesh Bhaban Old Building, 2 nd Floor, Room: 304 E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh |
| 17. | Contact details of Official Inviting EoI : Phone: 8181269, Email: sohrab@doe.gov.bd |
| 18. | Place of submission of EoI : Project Director's office, EbA project (Director's office of DoE Dhaka Laboratory) Poribesh Bhaban Old Building, 2 nd Floor, Room: 304 E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh |
| 19. | The Client (Procuring Entity) reserves the right to accept or reject all EoIs. |

The Department of Environment is implementing EbA Project to increase capacity of government and local communities living in the Barind Tract and the Haor wetland area and to reduce the negative effects of climate change using Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation.

Project Director of the EbA Project now invites eligible applicants to express their interest in providing the services. Applicants are advised to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in completed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and proven documents with a cover letter. Detail Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) including Format of CV and "Terms of References (ToR) including scope of works, responsibilities, educational qualifications and experiences are available in the DoE website (www.doe.gov.bd). Copy of ToR and Format of CV may also be obtained from the office mentioned above.

One original and two copies of EoI must be submitted in the Project Director's office on or before 25 January 2021, 02:30 pm Bangladesh Time in sealed envelope and be clearly marked the position for Expression of Interest. Applicants can send the EoI through Email also at sohrab@doe.gov.bd.

Persons who are in service should submit EoI through proper channel, otherwise EoI will be rejected.

GD-04

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Environment
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Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of short term Individual Consultant (National)

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|----|---|---|--|
| 1. | Ministry/Division | : | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| 2. | Agency | : | Department of Environment (DoE) |
| 3. | Client (Procuring Entity) Name | : | Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali, Project Director, EbA project |
| 4. | Client (Procuring Entity) Code | : | |
| 5. | Client (Procuring Entity) District | : | Dhaka |
| 6. | Expression of Interest for selection of | : | Short term Individual Consultant (National) Full Project Period but split into different phases |
| 7. | EoI Ref No | : | 22.02.0000.111.14.012.20-18 |
| 8. | Date | : | 30 December 2020 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Funding Information | | | |
| 9. | Source of Funds | : | LDCF of Global Environment Facility (GEF) |
| 10. | Development Partners | : | GEF-UNEP |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Particular Information | | | |
| 11. | Project Code | : | 009869 |
| 12. | Project Name | : | Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-Prone Barind Tract and Haor "Wetland" Area Project (EbA Project) |
| 13. | EoI Closing Date and Time | : | 18 January 2021, 02:30 pm |

| Information for Applicants: | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| Package No. | Name of Position | Number of Position | Duration Man Days (md) | Educational Qualifications and ToR* |
| SD-5 | National Adaptation Expert | 1 (one) | 79 md | At least an advanced post-graduate degree, preferably PhD in Climate Change Adaptation or related disciplines such as Environmental Vulnerability and Management/Natural Resources Management/Ecosystem-based Adaptation/Agriculture/Forestry/Land and Water Resources Management. |

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| Procuring Entity (Client) Details | |
| 14. | Name of Official Inviting EoI : Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali |
| 15. | Designation of Official Inviting EoI : Project Director, EbA Project |
| 16. | Address of Official Inviting EoI : Department of Environment Poribesh Bhaban Old Building, 2 nd Floor, Room: 304 E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 |
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GD-05