

UNAUTHORISED COMMERCIAL POULTRY FARMS

Health, agri land at stake in Madhabpur upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

With the departments of environment (DoE) and livestock (DLS) in their slumbers, unauthorised large-scale poultry farms are springing up on agricultural land in rural areas of Madhabpur upazila under Habiganj.

The farms are not only causing permanent damage to agricultural land, but also posing threat of spreading contagious diseases among thousands of inhabitants living in close proximity of the farms, said environmentalists.

Commercial farms with 100 or more poultry are considered to be large-scale farms, which are required to obtain clearance from the DoE, prior to obtaining registration from the DLS.

According to section 12 (1) of Bangladesh Environmental Protection Act, 2010, no industrial establishment or project can be set up or undertaken in any area without following due criteria to obtain clearance from the director general [of DoE].

During a visit to Kalikapur, Gopinathpur and Kamolpur villages in Madhabpur, this correspondent came across several large-scale poultry farms on leased agricultural land and near human habitations.

Around 25 thousand poultry was being reared in a farm set up on about 3.5 acres of land in Kalikapur, around 28 thousand poultry on about 3.1 acres in Gopinathpur and around 24 thousand poultry was being reared in a farm on about 2.7 acres of land near Abu Saleh Mazar in Kamolpur. There was another poultry farm under construction on 6.1 acres of land with a rearing capacity of 32 thousand poultry in Kamolpur near Hazratpur Shahjalal (RA) Alim Madrasa.

At these farms are being operated by one company under the name of Quality Integrated Agro Limited (QIAL).

Many of the villagers requesting anonymity told this correspondent that they had been suffering from various respiratory and other diseases after the farms were set up near their homes.

But they said they did not dare to speak up about their health or environmental concerns fearing repercussions of the "powerful owners" of the farms.

Abdul Qaiyum, a member of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan (Bapa), said, during their visit to the three villages, they were allowed to enter



Farm waste and dead poultry dumped indiscriminately in the open near a large-scale poultry farm at Kamolpur village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

only one of the poultry farms.

He said signs of environmental pollution were found as farm waste and dead poultry were being dumped indiscriminately in the open and in pits made around the farm compounds.

Surroundings near the dump sites were impassable due to severe stench and infestation of flies, he said, adding

that a good number of villagers were found to be suffering from respiratory and various other illnesses since the farms started operating near their homes.

Anisur Rahman Adil, principal of Hazratpur Shahjalal (RA) Alim Madrasa in Kamolpur, said the large-scale poultry farm under construction

near the institution will disrupt educational activities of students and teachers.

Besides posing environmental and health risks to thousands, it will damage agricultural land in the area for good, he also said.

Madhabpur Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer AHM Ishtiaq Mamun said, "Health of people living near these farms is at risk. They run the risk of contracting numerous diseases including lung, respiratory, allergic and dermatological diseases."

Tofazzal Sohel, general secretary of Bapa's Habiganj unit, said Quality Integrated Agro Limited has been in operation for three years and it is inexplicable how the large-scale farms are running without proper authorisation for years.

Section 16 of the law on prevention and control of animal diseases, enacted in 2005, made it mandatory to register commercial poultry farms with DLS and violation of the law is a punishable offence under section 25, he added.

Contacted, Madhabpur Upazila Livestock Officer Mujibur Rahman said in the three villages of the upazila, there are about 20 poultry farms and most are small-scale.

Admitting that QIAL has been running large-scale farms in the villages without registration with the DLS for three years, he said they asked QIAL to submit environmental clearance first, after the firm applied for registration with the DLS on January 10.

Asked how QIAL could continue their business for so long without registration, he said he was unable to answer as he was posted in the upazila only recently.

Fayez Ahmed, assistant general manager of QIAL, claimed that since the government gives incentives to set up poultry farms, there is no need for any approval.

Despite that, they recently have applied for registration with DLS, he added.

Emran Hossain, director of DoE in Sylhet, said they would take action against any poultry farm that is harming the environment.

Photo: Mintu Deshwara Farm waste and dead poultry dumped indiscriminately in the open near a large-scale poultry farm at Kamolpur village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj.



Although plying of motorcycles along the beach is completely prohibited, but surprising this photo shows a number of motorcyclist, who run their bikes on a rental basis, are seen waiting for tourist who would like to have a motorcycle ride. The photo was taken from Patuakhali's Kuakata beach area on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR

12 return from Indian prison

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Twelve Bangladeshi nationals, including three teenagers and two children, returned from India through Benapole check-post yesterday after serving three years in Indian jail.

All the returnees hail from different areas of Narail.

Indian Immigration Police handed them over to Benapole Immigration Police through yesterday noon.

Officer in Charge of Benapole Immigration Police Ahsan Habib said the returnees went to India through Benapole border in search of jobs about three and a half years ago.

Indian police arrested them while serving at different houses in Bangalore and produced them before the court that sent them to jail for entering the country without valid documents.

After ending their jail terms, Talas, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), kept them under their custody.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program (WeCARE) Phase-I: Rural Connectivity, Market and Logistic Infrastructure Improvement Project (RCMLIIP) LGED Bhaban, Level-10

Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. 46.02.0000.824.14.008.20.36

Date: 28/01/2021

Request for Expressions of Interest

Procurement and Contract Management Specialist (Consulting Services - Individual Consultant Selection)

Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program (WeCARE) Phase-I

Assignment Title: Procurement and Contract Management Specialist Reference No. SP-06 (B)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program (WeCARE) Phase-I and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Procurement and contract management Consultant Services.

The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") includes carrying out the following in the project influence areas of Jashore, Jhenaidah, Magura, Chuadanga, Satkhira, and Meherpur.

1. Support Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for all procurement process starting from bidding document preparation to award the contract;
2. Assist Support Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in monitoring contractual management, documentation, and communication;
3. Closely monitor the contract management process of the signed contracts of WeCARE on behalf of the Project Director for proper integration of the project.

The expected date for commencement of the services is February 2021 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 48 (forty-eight) months. A draft TOR can be found at the following website: (www.lged.gov.bd) or can be obtained at the address given below).

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individuals should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. Experience in all procurement process starting from bidding document preparation to award the contract;
2. Experience in monitoring contractual management, documentation, and communication.
3. Experience in IDA funded similar projects.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the Section III, Para 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016 and updated in August 2018," setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

An individual will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultants Selection (ICS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (9:00am to 17:00pm BST). Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail) by 17:00pm (BST), 25 February, 2021.

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GD-200

TANGAIL MUNICIPALITY

Civic amenities a far cry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Important civic amenities like safe drinking water, garbage management still remain a far cry for Tangail municipality dwellers.

Like every previous elections, candidates, vying for different posts, again promised to resolve the woes if they won the elections battle this time.

Established in 1887, the municipality, comprising of 29.43 square-kilometre area, has a population of around two lakh. But thousands of dwellers of the century-old municipality still remain deprived of their right to safe and pure drinking water.

Moreover, those who have existing connections are not getting pure water as per their demand.

According to the municipality sources, there are currently 7,337 water connections out of a total of 28,000 holding numbers under the municipality.

Of those, around 2,000 connections are currently out of order and once the new water treatment plant starts its operation, the municipality will be able to supply water to 7,000 more holdings.

According to Local Government (Municipality) Act 2009, waste management as well as local environment and protecting citizens' health is equally important responsibility of the municipal authorities.

But the 134-year-old municipality is yet to develop a modern waste management system.

Although, the municipality has 18 wards arrangement of waste collection is available in only 10 wards completely and three more wards partially.

Municipality officials said around 65 to 70 tonnes of waste is being dumped in the municipal area every day while the municipality can remove only 50 to 55 tonnes of those.

The bad odour from the roadside garbage keeps spreading across the area, causing immense sufferings locals, especially pedestrians.

Besides, the Park Market, the main kitchen market in the town, sees no development for the last 33 years and there is no particular drain system for such a large kitchen market.

Currently, there are around 700 permanent and 300 temporary shops in the market.

Traders alleged that though the municipality authorities get a handsome revenue from the leased shops, they are reluctant to conduct any development work of the market.

On the other hand, there is no children park in the municipality area, depriving kids of plying games and proper entertainment.

Twenty seven canals under the municipality area already disappeared thanks to illegal occupation of government land.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

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Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. 46.02.0000.728.14.008.20.37

Date: 28/01/2021

Request for Expressions of Interest

Land Acquisition Resettlement and Income Restoration Specialist (Consulting Services - Individual Consultant Selection)

Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program (WeCARE) Phase-I Assignment Title: Land Acquisition Resettlement and Income Restoration Specialist Reference No. SP-06 (D)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program (WeCARE) Phase-I and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Land Acquisition Resettlement and Income Restoration Specialist.

The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") includes carrying out the following in the project influence areas of Jashore, Jhenaidah, Magura, Chuadanga, Satkhira, and Meherpur.

1. Assist the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) with land acquisition documentation and resettlement action plan preparation with help of the firm deployed for these tasks.
2. Check all associated reports, data, and procedure as instructed by Project Implementation Unit (PIU).
3. Ensure that the resettlement and income restoration are conducted in accordance with GoB and WB policies but at the same time aids with timely implementation of the project.

The expected date for commencement of the services is February 2021 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 52 (fifty-two) months. A draft TOR can be found at the following website: (www.lged.gov.bd) or can be obtained at the address given below).

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individuals should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

1. Experience in all land acquisition documentation and resettlement action plan preparation.
2. Experience in resettlement and income restoration.
3. Experience in IDA funded similar projects.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the Section III, Para 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016 and updated in August 2018," setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

An individual will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultants Selection (ICS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

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