



Walton Hi-Tech Industries directors SM Ashrafur Alam and SM Mahbul Alam and Managing Director Golam Murshed launch fireworks inaugurating a "Walton Meet the Dreamer" conference at the Royal Tulip Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa in Cox's Bazar last Sunday.



Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, inaugurates seven agent banking outlets through video conferencing yesterday.

An inspiration for new e-commerce entrepreneurs

FROM PAGE B4
Nipa then sold some 400 Falsa saplings and made a profit of Tk 22,000 in 15 days in June, 2020.

"It built my confidence but there was a lot to learn," she said.

Nipa then learned from WE forum's President Nasima Akter and Admin Rajib Ahmed about digital skills.

She continued selling the Falsa saplings and soon local nurseries became exhausted of their supply.

"The demand for Falsa saplings continued to rise, but I could not supply any."

So, Nipa started to loose heart.

But her husband Amreto helped her collecting some Falsa seeds from a tree at the Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban premises and he sent the seeds to his father who is a farmer in Natore to grow plants.

While the Falsa seeds were under the growing process, Nipa needed another product.

"My husband came up with an idea."

Rural Rajshahi has a heritage of eating Barley powder or Chhatu and a mix of five grains consisting Barley, Binni variety rice, wheat, chickpeas and red lentil, Amreto said.

And farmers of the water-starved region grow these grains in plenty as these require less irrigation, he added.

Nipa collected Barley powder and the five grains' mix and wrote about those in the e-commerce group.

Some 600 people bought these two items. Nipa made at least Tk 2.5 lakh profit in three months since July.

"Chhatu is such a popular item that I made it my signature product," Nipa

says. She usually buys Barley, wheat, rice and other agricultural products from local markets and employs rural women to prepare those for making powder.

She makes the powder both in automatic mills and in husking pedal.

"Chhatu that was threshed in a husking pedal has its demand. Some of the buyers have ordered thrice and more," Nipa said.

This year, Nipa took 12 bighas of land on lease in Tanore upazila to cultivate barley without using any chemicals on it. She employed four sharecroppers and provided them with free seeds for cultivation.

"My intention is to save the local heritage of producing barley. It is fetching me money," she said.

Bangladesh witnessed a fall in barley production from 20,000 tonnes in 1971 to 7,000 tonnes in 2020, according to the World Data Atlas of Knoema.

Samir Saha, an Ayurvedic doctor, orders 10 kilogrammes of Chhatu every week for his orphanage in Netrokona. Some order for diabetic while others choose for their children.

Nipa's daily average sales now hover around Tk 10,000.

Her products include black gram, black gram threshed in Jata, a swirling traditional threshing tool, dusts of neem and drumstick leaves, wheat's red flour, water lily seeds.

She also sells date molasses, cane molasses, ghee, pumpkin seeds, barley flour, wheat flour, dried tamarind, dried jujube, black cumin and flax.

Nipa's products have already reached to 62 districts of the country, other than Chhainawabganj and

Naogaon. She even home delivers her products in Rajshahi city.

"My dream is now to expand more, to set up some infrastructure of my business and permanently employ the rural women who are helping me prepare the products on the basis of orders," Nipa said.

She said she was thinking of applying for a loan for her ventures.

"I now feel wonderful, self-reliant, and economically capable to feed my choices. I feel happy that I found an identity of my own," Nipa added.

About 70 per cent of the group's 11.5 lakh members are women and four lakhs of them are entrepreneurs of different local products, Nasima of the WE forum told The Daily Star.

"All the women entrepreneurs of our group were engaged in the sales driven by the need for self-development and upgrade their economic condition."

She said women entrepreneurs mainly suffer from two problems - the lack of access to internet and access to the product delivery chain.

"Internet speed is another problem for areas outside Dhaka city. Some of our members struggle while using internet through mobile data."

She said product delivery chain was limited within the district headquarters, sometimes the upazila levels.

"If the delivery chain can be extended to the union level, the entrepreneurs would have been benefited more."

She urged the authorities concerned to look into the problems of the entrepreneurs.

Development spending at decade low

FROM PAGE B1
"But now the implementation is slowly increasing," he added.

Despite the pandemic, which pushed for further spending on the health sector around the world, the Health Service Division managed to spend only 21.38 per cent or Tk 20,830 crore of its total allocation from the ADP in the first eight months.

The Bridges Division is also lagging behind in ADP implementation as its expenditure stands at Tk 25.16 per cent in the eight months.

And for that, annual allocation for Padma bridge reduced to Tk 2,099.93 crore. The original allocation was Tk 5,000 crore.

The science and ICT ministry spent only 30.38 per cent in the same period. The allocation for the 2,400

MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the biggest single project which is worth Tk 113,092 crore, witnessed significant reduction.

The project would now get Tk 10,166.78 crore this fiscal, which is Tk 5,524.35 crore less than the original allocation.

The power plant project made 34.34 per cent progress until December last year.

Despite this sluggish spending in the government-funded project, the overall allocation to the revised annual development programme was trimmed by only Tk 7 lakh even though the government had decided to put low-priority projects on hold in the beginning of the fiscal year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

ones and eventually the whole group becomes a defaulter. So, the chamber proposed amending the law in this regard by keeping the rest of the profitable concerns of a group out of the purview of ceasing the flow of funds.

Pointing to the matter that businesses failed to make their expected profit due to pandemic, the chamber also placed a proposal for exempting fines in case of delays in paying quarterly tax on last year's tax return.

Other proposals include lessening the duration of realising advance tax for vehicles' tax token from two years

In the original ADP, the government fund was Tk 134,643.07 crore for fiscal 2020-21.

"We are now emphasising on government spending to boost the economy and increase funding in rural areas. That message has been conveyed to the ministries," said an official of finance ministry seeking anonymity.

"That is why a circular has been issued instructing them that they can spend up to 85 per cent of the low priority projects' allocation without the approval of the finance division," he added.

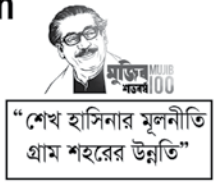
However, in the beginning of the financial year, priority projects were asked to halt their spending. Later, they were allowed to send 75 per cent of the allocations.

to one year, bringing down rates of VAT to single digit and fixing sector wise VAT rates and cancellation of 5 per cent VAT in retail sales of LPG cylinders.

CCI Director AKM Akhter Hossain; former director Mahfuzul Hoque Shah; BSRM Group Chairman Abul Bashar Chowdhury; Confidence Cement Managing Director Zahir Uddin Ahmad; REHAB President Abdul Qaium; Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association General Secretary Altaf Hossain; and leaders of Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and Rangamati chambers spoke among others.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
"Technical Assistance Project for My Village- My Town"
LGED, LGED Bhaban (Level-09)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd



Memo No. 46.02.0000.982.11.001.21.10

Dated: 10-03-2021

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives/Local Government Division.
2. Agency	Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).
3. Procuring entity name	Project Director (Addl. Charge), Technical Assistance Project for "My Village-My Town".
4. Procuring entity code	N/A.
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6. Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consultant	Selection of Individual Consultant (National).
7. EOI Ref. No.	Memo No. 46.02.0000.982.11.001.21.10
8. Ref. Date	10-03-2021

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement sub-method	Selection of Individual Consultant (National).
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget and source of funds	GOB.
11. Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project code (if applicable)	223041300
13. Project name	Technical Assistance Project for "My Village-My Town".
14. Place of EOI submission	Office of the Project Director, Greater Chattogram Rural Infrastructure Development Project-3, LGED Bhaban, Level-8, LGED H/Q, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
15. EOI closing date & time	Date: 30/03/2021 Time: 2:00pm

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

16. Brief description of assignment	Package No.	Proposed post, number & tentative duration	Minimum qualification	Minimum experience	Working station	Scope of works
	TAPP of MVMT/S-03	Senior Road Infrastructure Specialist 1 person (11 months)	MSc/BSc. in Civil Engineering discipline	General experience -25 years' experience in rural development sector Specific Experience -10 years' experience in rural road development sector	Dhaka. Frequent travel to anywhere in the country is expected.	Detail as TOR
	TAPP of MVMT/S-04	Senior Growth Center and Community Space Development Specialist 1 person (10 months)	MSc/BSc. in Urban and Regional Planning/Architecture/ Civil Engineering discipline	General experience -20 years' experience in development sector Specific experience -More than 8 years' experience in planning/development sector - Communication, writing, research skill will be preferred	Dhaka. Frequent travel to anywhere in the country is expected.	Detail as TOR
	TAPP of MVMT/S-05	Senior Rural Water Supply Specialist 1 person (9 months)	MSc/BSc. in Civil/Environmental / Water Supply & Sanitation discipline	General experience -25 years' experience in water supply sector Specific experience -10 years' experience in rural water sector	Dhaka. Frequent travel to anywhere in the country is expected.	Detail as TOR
	TAPP of MVMT/S-06	Senior Waste Management Specialist 1 person (9 months)	MSc/BSc. in Civil Engineering/ Environmental/ Engineering/ Environmental Science discipline	General experience -20 years' experience in environmental management/development sector Specific experience -10 years' experience in waste management sector	Dhaka. Frequent travel to anywhere in the country is expected.	Detail as TOR
	TAPP of MVMT/S-08	Land Development Specialist 1 person (9 months)	MSc/MA in Regional Planning/Geography/ Public Administration or related discipline	General experience -25 years' experience in development sector Specific experience -10 years' practical experience in land management and rural development in Bangladesh -Proven leadership, communication, negotiation and writing skills -Publication will be preferred.	Dhaka. Frequent travel to anywhere in the country is expected.	Detail as TOR
	TAPP of MVMT/S-07	Senior Upazila Master Plan Specialist 1 person (9 months)	MSc/BSc. in Urban and Regional Planning discipline	General experience -20 years' experience in Physical Planning Specific experience -8 years' experience in rural planning -Proven leadership, communication, negotiation and writing skills -Publication will be preferred.	Dhaka. Frequent travel to anywhere in the country is expected.	Detail as TOR
	TAPP of MVMT/S-10	Admin Officer 1 person (10 months)	Master's degree in related field.	General experience -8 years' experience in development sector Specific experience -3 years' experience as Admin Officer/Coordinator	Dhaka	Detail as TOR

17. Other information
• Individual Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the PPR-2008.
• Detailed information may be collected from the undersigned office during office hour.

18. Association with foreign firm is
Not encouraged.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19. Name of official inviting EOI	Abul Monzur Md. Sadeque
20. Designation of official inviting EOI	Project Director (Addl. Charge).
21. Address of official inviting EOI	Level-8, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
22. Contact details of official inviting EOI	Telephone: 088-02-58155292 (Office), E-mail: monzursadeque@gmail.com mvillage.mytown@lged.gov.bd Cell No. 01678-054300

• The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI.
• A complete set of "Request for Application" including Terms of Reference may be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
• RFA must be delivered to the address below in sealed envelope on or before 30 March 2021 within 2.00pm with clearly mention the name of post.

Abul Monzur Md. Sadeque
Project Director (Addl. Charge)
Tel: 02 44826220 (Off)