



Three of the seven bridges that are in an appalling state in four unions of Barguna's Amtali upazila. Top right, the bridge on Gazipur canal in Atharogachhia union. Top left, the bridge on Chawra canal near Kaunia Ibrahim Academy in Chawra union. Bottom, Loda canal near Hafezia Madrasa in Chawra union.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Seven deadly bridges in four unions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

As many as seven concrete bridges built on iron infrastructure have become the cause of great distress for about 50 thousand people in four unions of Amtali upazila under Barguna. Located in Atharogachhia, Haldia, Chawra and Gulishakhali unions of the upazila, the bridges are integral part of road communications in 19 villages of the unions. Out the seven, two bridges have collapsed while five others turned impassable after huge holes developed on those. The bridge on Gazipur canal in Atharogachhia union collapsed early this month after four of its pillars gave way, said locals. The bridge -- built by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in 2008 -- was the primary means of communications for about 15 thousand inhabitants of eight

villages in the union, they also said. "Our sufferings since then have been inexplicable," said Humayun Kabir, a villager from Gazipur village. In 2011, when LGED built the bridge on Chawra canal near Haldia Hat Government Primary School in Haldia union at a cost of Tk 60 lakh, it came as a blessing for about 10 thousand residents in Haldia, Gurudal, North Taktabunia and South Taktabunia villages. But after large concrete chunks, as wide as its entire width, fell off the bridge in May this year, communications of the villagers with the upazila headquarters have become extremely difficult. Shanu Mollah, a farmer from Haldia village, said, "Movement of vehicles over the bridge has become impossible after that. I used to sell rice, lentil and other agricultural goods at Amtali market, but I can't do so anymore." Especially, taking pregnant women and



critical patients to hospitals has become extremely difficult, he also said. Another bridge on the same canal was built by LGED about the same time in front of Radhi house in Chawra union. It has also

turned hazardous since December last year when large holes developed in the middle of the bridge. Nearly ten thousand people in four villages now do not have any other option but use the risky bridge. In May this year, the third bridge that collapsed on Chawra canal has been the one near Kaunia Ibrahim Academy in Chawra union. With vehicular moment on the bridge suspended ever since, it inflicted immense sufferings on about eight thousand people in Kaunia, Chalabhang, Majhisadanga and East Mahishdanga villages. In early February this year, a large section of the bridge on Loda canal, near Hafezia Madrasa in the same union, gave way while a heavily loaded light vehicle was crossing it. The bridge has remained off limits to the public since then, but no steps were taken to repair it. The bridge on the same canal near Loda


Government School in Chawra union is in a similar state. Even though concrete from large sections of the bridge fell off, there has been no initiative to repair it. Several thousand residents of Loda village now have no other option but risk their lives on the risky bridge. In Gulishakhali union, the bridge over Chila canal is also in a state of disrepair. A ten to twelve-foot section in the middle of the bridge gave way in 2019 when a cargo-laden tractor trolley was crossing it. The sufferings endured by around two thousand villagers have been unimaginable, as the authorities did not seem to have felt the need to repair it. Asked, Abdullah Al Mamun, an engineer of LGED in Amtali upazila, said they have plans to replace the seven damaged bridges with girder bridges and they already sought necessary funds from the authorities for the purpose. "After the fund is allocated, work will commence as early as possible."

'She kept traffickers in sync'


FROM PAGE 12 Other than Bangla, she is skilled in five languages -- Hindi, Arabic, Tamil, Malay and English. "The racket's network stretches to Malaysia, the UAE and India. Nodi coordinates for them," the DC said. Police said she had close ties with the Bangladeshi traffickers arrested by Bengaluru police on May 27 in connection with the video clip of a 22-year-old woman being tortured and sexually assaulted. "Nodi and Rifadul Islam Ridoy, also known as Ridoy Babo on TikTok, both lived in Moghbazar area in Dhaka. She is a part of Ridoy's racket. We have found that she has trafficked more than five women through this racket," the DC said. Recently, five women who were trafficked to India and later forced into sex work, escaped from the clutches of the racket and returned to Bangladesh. They filed cases against the traffickers. Nodi, 28, is accused in at least two of the five trafficking cases filed with Hatirjheel Police Station in recent weeks. According to one of the cases, a victim's husband sold his wife to Nodi for Tk 40,000 and Nodi later handed over the woman to the sex racket in India for Tk 70,000. She also trafficked three more women of a family -- two sisters and their aunt -- from Jatrabari to the Indian cities of Bengaluru, Chennai and Kerala. Police seized two Aadhaar cards, a passport, a diary, photographs of two victims, two air tickets of a Bengaluru-Goa flight and a mobile phone from Nodi's possession. Nodi hails from Munshiganj and studied till class five. She was married to known criminal Rajib Hossain in 2005, police said. In 2015, Rajib died in a crossfire.

Investigators learnt that Nodi herself was trafficked to Malaysia by a racket in 2017. After coming back to the country in 2019, she married again, but police said the marriage did not last. In the same year, she met another trafficker named Sonia and eventually got involved in the racket. Two teams of Hatirjheel Police Station arrested the seven people while conducting raids in bordering areas in Jashore and Narail districts on Monday. The other arrestees are Al Amin Hossain, 28, Saiful Islam, 28, Palak Mandal, 26, Binash Sikdar, 33, Tarikul Islam, 26, and Amirul Islam, 30. The seven arrestees have each been placed on four-day remand. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahmuda Akter passed the order after Investigation Officer Mohammad Mohiuddin Faruk, an inspector of Hatirjheel Police Station, produced them before the court with a 10-day remand prayer in a case filed by a victim who returned from India, court sources said. Police said Palak Mandal, hailing from Jashore's Monirampur, went to his grandfather's house in Uttar Chhabbish Pargana of India's West Bengal after passing SSC. Later he completed a bachelor's degree in ayurvedic medicine. He came into close contact with Israfil Hossain Khokhon, Bakul, Taslima and other members of the racket staying in India. During his practice in ayurvedic medicine, he first targeted poor young girls who came for treatment. Then he sent them to Taslima in Bengaluru. "After that he started managing Aadhaar Cards for the trafficked women and also looked after the women at a 'safe home' and then

sent them to Bengaluru," DCMd Shahidullah said. Police said he has his own Indian ID cards. "He has his Aadhaar card and two other ID cards issued by the election commission of India and Income Tax Department," said the police official. Police seized an Indian SIM card and a victim's Aadhaar card from his possession. **UP MEMBER IN THE RACKET** Police said a upazila parishad member in Sharsha gets Tk 1,000 for each woman trafficked to India. Police are yet to arrest her and have not yet disclosed the member's name. Police said the UP member has close ties with Al Amin. Al Amin had been involved in the racket since 2017 and was shot by India's Border Security Force (BSF) in 2020 when he was trafficking four women to India. "The women are kept at Al Amin's house near the Sharsha border. If any women get caught by BGB [Border Guard Bangladesh] during trafficking, the UP member manages to get them released by introducing the women as her relatives," said the official. Among the other arrestees, Saiful has a mobile transaction shop in Panch Bhulal Bazar area in Sharsha. The UP member and the other accused used to send and receive money using Saiful's account, according to police. Hailing from Narail, Binash rented a house at Benapole and filled forms for travellers who crossed the border. While doing this, he got involved with the racket. He also married an Indian national, police said. The investigators said the arrested traffickers are from the same transnational racket, the members of which were recently arrested in India. So far, law enforcement officials in Bangladesh have arrested 20 accused while Indian police arrested 12.

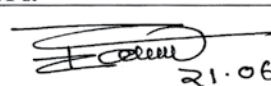


Bangladesh Climate Change Trust
Old Ban bhaban, (5th and 6th floor)
101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212



Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for services

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Ministry/Division | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) |
| 2. Agency | Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) |
| 3. Project Name | Strengthening Gender Responsive Climate Actions in Bangladesh |
| 4. Procuring Entity District | Dhaka, Bangladesh |
| 5. Expression of interest for selection of | Local Consulting Firm/NGOs for the Project " Strengthening Gender Responsive Climate Actions in Bangladesh" |
| 6. EOI Ref No | 22.06.0000.118.034.20 |
| 7. Works Name | Selection of Consulting Firm/NGOs for (a) Collecting data and information for reviewing and updating Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (CCGAP, 2013) both local and national level (b) Implementing Gender sensitive climate scheme at the selected areas in Bangladesh under the project "Strengthening Gender Responsive Climate Actions in Bangladesh" (c) Providing Skill Development training to the selected Community members in the project working districts (d) Conducting Baseline Survey for the women led climate adaptive schemes implementing in the project working areas. |
| 8. Procurement Sub-Method | Competent and Experienced Firm/NGOs will be selected on the basis of overall experience, technical and organizational capacity and in consideration of Financial Proposal and QCBS (Quality and Cost Based Selection) method will be followed for selection of Local Consulting Firm/NGOs |
| 9. Budget and Source of Funds | Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF) |
| 10. EOI Publication Date and Time | 23 June, 2021 03.00 P.m |
| 11. EOI Submission Date and Time | 15 July, 2021 03.00 P.m |
| 12. EOI Opening Date and Time | 15 July, 2021 03.15 P.m |
| 13. EOI Submission Place | Old Ban Bhaban (6 th floor), 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 |
| 14. Name and address of Office | Project Director " Strengthening Gender Responsive Climate Actions in Bangladesh" Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Old Ban Bhaban (6 th floor), Room No (701) 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 |
| 15. Receiving of EOI Documents | Office of the Project Director Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Old Ban Bhaban (6 th floor), Room No (701) 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 |
| 16. Experience, Resource and Delivery Capacity Required | 1. Background of the Firm/NGOs with brochure 2. General and overall experience of the firm/NGO have Climate Change related issues focusing on the Gender equality and women empowerment, collecting field level data, holding consultations and meeting both at local and national level, providing capacity building training, and developing action plan, 3. Minimum 10 years' of Experience in the area of gender equality, women empowerment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, community mobilization, and similar works; 4. Working experience to work with Government institution or Agency 5. Summary of Professional qualifications and experience of technical staffs. 6. Updated Trade License/NGO Affairs Bureau Registration, TIN Certificate and VAT Registration. 7. Experience Certificate. 8. Has a permanent office within the location area |
| 17. Brief Description of Works/Services | Requirement of consulting Firm/NGOs are as per approved Terms of Reference available at office of Project Director " Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Old Ban Bhaban (6 th floor), Room No (701) 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 |
| 18. Brief Description of consulting Firm/NGO 's Responsibilities | • Collection of field level data from the selected 09 districts of 08 Divisions through applying different methodologies i.e. KIIs, consultations, meetings, workshops, and FGDs etc to support the review process and update the Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (CCGAP). • Implementing Gender sensitive climate adaptation scheme in 03 districts under 03 divisions of Bangladesh under the project "Strengthening Gender Responsive Climate Actions in Bangladesh" • Providing Skill Development training to the rural women on the selective climate resilient adaptation scheme in the project working districts • Conducting Baseline Survey for the women led climate adaptation schemes implementing in the project working areas |
| 19. Name of Official Inviting EOI | Md. Khairuzzaman |
| 20. Designation of Official Inviting EOI | Deputy Secretary and Project Director of the Project " Strengthening Gender Responsive Climate Actions in Bangladesh" |
| 21. Address of official Inviting EOI | Office of Project Director " Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoECC), Old Ban Bhaban (6 th floor), Room No (701) 101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 |
| 22. Contact details of Official inviting Expression of Interest | Tel: 02222282596, Cell: 01716428285 Email: khairuzzaman15787@yahoo.com |
| 23. The EOI will be available in the website of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust. | |
| 24. Special Condition | (a) Consulting Firm/NGO will be selected in accordance with PPA-2006 and PPR-2008 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by CPTU. (b) Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of undersigned. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatever. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs. |


 21.06.2021
 Md. Khairuzzaman,
 Director (Deputy Secretary)
 Monitoring and Evaluation
 and
 Project Director



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
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Memo no. 12.21.0000.010.41.468.20.917 Date: 21.06.2021

e- TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited Through National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of following works:

| SI no | Tender ID No. | Tendering Method | Description of works | Online (e-GP system) tender publication date & time | Online (e-GP system) tender closing date & time |
|-------|---------------|------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. | 589836 | OTM | Construction of RCC Road under Strengthening of Spices Crop Research in Bangladesh at SRC, Shibganj, Bogura | 20-Jun-2021 12:00 | 12-Jul-2021 12:30 |

This is online tender, only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Registration is essential to submit e-Tender.

Fees have to be deposited for downloading the tender documents from e-GP Portal through any registered bank. For further information please contact e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Ferozur Rahman
Superintending Engineer (In-charge)

GD- 1251