

Bangladeshis returning from India with deadly silicosis

KONGKON KARMAKER

Many Bangladeshis are facing slow death from silicosis after their return from India following years of work at stone crushing fields in different states of the neighbouring country.

Silicosis is a form of lung disease that is usually caused by many years of inhalation of silica dust.

Most of these Bangladeshis, especially residents of bordering districts, had long been working illegally at various stone crushing sites in a number of Indian states including Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi.

The Bangladeshis entered the neighbouring country in search of jobs and none of them have any valid travel documents.

The Daily Star recently interviewed several such returnee workers who are from Biral upazila in Dinajpur and Pirganj upazila in Thakurgaon.

All of them said that they used to work at different stone crushing plants in India for many years and are now suffering from silicosis.

According to lung disease specialist Prof BK Bose, who is the director of Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences in Dinajpur, silicosis is a fibrotic lung disorder caused by inhalation, retention and pulmonary reaction due to long term exposure to crystalline silica at mines, stone crushing plants and stone quarries.

High exposure to silica can cause silicosis within a month with significant impairment of lungs within few years, he said. "Life becomes shorter if anyone gets infected with silicosis."

Most people in Bangladesh still have little knowledge about the deadly but preventable disease. If anyone gets infected and the stage is at an acute level, the person will surely die at an early age, the professor also said.

Idris Ali, a 35-year-old man from Narabari village in Dinajpur's Biral upazila, crossed into India illegally in search of a job when he was 20.

He said he later got a job at a stone crushing site in Delhi and his initial monthly wage was 5,000 Indian rupees.

Idris returned home in 2016 after working there for ten years.

He fell sick soon after he came home and he primarily took treatment from local quacks. But after his health condition started to deteriorate, he recently saw a doctor in Dinajpur town and was soon diagnosed with silicosis.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone, Idris said many people in his village are

still working at various stone crushing fields in different states of India. "If I knew [about the risks], I would not have taken the job," he sighed.

Till date, at least 11 people died of silicosis in Narabari village alone, he also said.

Since the treatment of the disease is highly expensive, he recently stopped getting allopathic treatment in favour of homeopathic treatment.

Moinul Islam, a 26-year-old from the same village, said he went to India in 2013, looking for a job.

Most of these Bangladeshis, especially residents of bordering districts, had long been working illegally at various stone crushing sites in a number of Indian states including Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi.

He later got a job at a stone crushing company in Haryana where he worked for six years. He returned home in 2019 and was diagnosed with silicosis recently.

His monthly medicine costs now go as high as Tk 6,000, which is beyond the affordability of his poor family.

While talking with this correspondent, Moinul said around 200 young people, mostly from Dinajpur, Rangpur and Lalmonirhat, work at nearly 200 stone crushing fields in India.

Another returnee worker, Khairul Alam, 29, from Pirganj of Thakurgaon, said he too was unaware of the risks and worked at a stone crushing field in India for five years to support his family in financial hardship.

He returned home in 2019 and was diagnosed with silicosis recently.

Dr BK Bose, the lung specialist in Dinajpur, said five of his silicosis patients had worked at different stone crushing sites in India.

Termining the trend of going to India for job a social problem, he said there are many job opportunities in Bangladesh now. "Awareness could be a solution to the problem."



Locals join voluntary service to construct an embankment on Louhajang river to save an Eid congregation ground, a graveyard and a dakhil madrasa from erosion.

PHOTO: STAR

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE Villagers themselves building dyke to stop erosion of Louhajang river in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People of Doshokia union in Kalihati upazila of Tangail have been constructing a 300-metre embankment through voluntary work to save their houses, an Eid congregation ground, a graveyard and a dakhil madrasa from erosion by the Louhajang river.

Erosion of the Louhajang river hit the Doshokia union since the increase of water level of the river from the beginning of the monsoon, devouring a number of structures, including dwelling houses, and croplands.

After an Eid congregation ground, a graveyard and a dakhil madrasa and many other houses faced the threat erosion, the

villagers took an initiative to resist the erosion by constructing a temporary embankment on their own to save the area from going to riverbed, local sources said.

They started works to construct the embankment on Friday and first constructing bamboo fence at a 300 metres stretch. Later, they will dump sand bags on there. The works may take few more days for completion, they said.

Villagers Masum Khan, Ramjan Ali, Dulu Miah, Faruk Sarkar, Nurul Islam, Sobur Ali, Lal Miah and Abul Kasem said erosion was devouring dwelling houses and different other structures as well as croplands for the last two years, making many local families displaced. However, the authorities

and public representatives did nothing to solve the problem.

As the erosion of the river posed threats to the Eid Gaon, graveyard used by the people of the three villages and also the madrasa and dwelling houses in the area, the villagers decided to do something to check the erosion and save these by their own, they said. Immediately after the decision, they raised a fund of Tk 2 lakh by the contribution of the villagers and also taking donation from local markets to construct an embankment on there, they said.

Motiuur Rahman Bhuiyan, member of 8 Ward No 8 of the union, said the villagers were working to construct the embankment voluntarily and

taking donation from the locals for it.

Being informed of the villagers' initiative, Abdul Malek Bhuiyan, chairman of Doshokia union parishad, also came ahead, expressed his solidarity with the villagers and provided his supports to implement the initiative.

Malek Bhuiyan, the UP chairman and also the general secretary of upazila unit of Awami League, said he has already extended his help, including financial supports, to the villagers' initiative.

"I'll also request the Water Development Board and Upazila Administration for taking initiative to construct a permanent embankment in the erosion affected area," he said.

Lightning kills 2 in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two farmers were killed in lightning strikes in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila yesterday.

The victims are Delwar Hossain Dulal, 50, son of late Biraj Mollah of Jorapukur village, and Mozaffar Hossain, 48, son of late Hossain Ali of Chowdhurypara village.

Four others were also injured during the incident. Injured Emdad Haque, 35, Sabbir Hossain, 17, Khalidur Rahman, 55, and Sirajul Islam, 40, took treatment at Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

Quoting witnesses, Officer in Charge of Panchbibi Police Station Polish Chandra Deb said a thunderbolt hit them while they were sowing Aman sapling at Ratanpur village amid rain yesterday morning, leaving two dead on the spot and four others injured.

3 arrested for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Three people, including two siblings, were arrested yesterday in connection with a case for killing an Imam of a mosque in Sarail upazila on July 20.

The arrestees are Abdullah Mia, 40, and Shahed Mia, 50, and his son Junaid Mia, 20.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested the three, raiding Teigaon and Khilgaon areas of the capital, Special Superintendent of Police Mukta Dhar said at a press conference at the CID Headquarters yesterday.

According to the case statement, there had been a longstanding feud between slain Abdur Rahim and his two younger brothers Abdullah and Shahed over a piece of disputed land at Dhamaura village.

On July 20, Shahed and Abdullah locked into an altercation with Rahim, and then hit Rahim with a spear.

Neighbours took injured Rahim to Kuliarchar Upazila Health Complex in nearby Kishoreganj, where the doctors declared him dead.



Due to continuous rainfall for the last couple of days, nearly 550 fish enclosures in six out of the eight upazilas of Patuakhali were flooded. The photo was taken from Rangabali upazila on Sunday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Office of the Chief Engineer
Jashore University of Science & Technology
Jashore-7408
Tel: 0421-62466, Fax: 0421-61199
JUST/Engg/731/Purchase of 80KVA Generator-21/741 Date: 01/08/2021

Invitation for e-Tender for Goods

1	Invitation Reference No.	JUST/Engg/731/Purchase of 80KVA Generator-21/741;
2	Tender ID (from e-GP Portal)	ID- 596562
3	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
4	Name of the work	Supply & installation of 80 KVA Prime 3-Phase Diesel Generator with ATS canopy and sensing cable at JUST.
5	Tender Package No.	e-GP/GD-01/80 KVA Generator/2021-22
6	Tender publication date	03/08/2021
7	Tender last selling date	17/08/2021
8	Tender closing date and time	18/08/2021 12.00pm
9	Tender opening date and time	18/08/2021 12.00pm
10	Tender document price	2000/- (two thousand only).

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Prof. Dr. Md. Anisur Rahman
Chief Engineer (Add. Charge)

Sylhet City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet
www.scc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.07.0000.020.14.137.21-162 Date: 02/08/2021

Corrigendum Notice (Expression of Interest (EOI) for CONSULTING Firm)

This is to notify for all concerned that, the work mentioned in notice for Expression of Interest (EOI) for CONSULTING Firm the tender last selling date will be **01/09/2021** instead of **05/08/2021** & Tender submission date will be **02/09/2021** instead of **05/08/2021**.

Other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

Superintending Engineer
Sylhet City Corporation

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধ্যক্ষ কার্যালয়
শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ মেডিকেল কলেজ
গাজীপুর
তারিখ: ০২/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-শহীদতাজউদ্দীনআহমেডমেডিকেল/আউটসোর্সিং-দরপত্র/২০২১/৯৪৮

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

বাছা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাছা শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ, বাছা শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের অধীনে শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমেদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর।

০১	গ্রাকিউরমেন্ট মেডিক	উন্নত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০২	ফ্যাকের উভস	রাজস্ব ব্যাজেট।
০৩	সম্ভাব্য সপ্তাহের নাম	অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমেদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর।
০৪	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা।	অধ্যক্ষ, শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমেদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর। ফোন: ৪৯২৭০২৫১, ফ্যাক্স: ৪৯২৬১৪২৩, ই-মেইল: stamc@ac.dghs.gov.bd
০৫	দরপত্রের নাম	২০২১-২০২২ অর্থ বছরে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনস্বাস্থ্য সর্বসাধারণ।
০৬	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হবে (১) হালনাগাদ নয়ানকৃত আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনস্বাস্থ্য সর্বসাধারণের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২০২১-২০২২) এর সত্যায়িত কপি (২) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিবেশের সনদের (২০২০-২১) সত্যায়িত জমা দিতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, কর গ্রহীতার্থীরা আবেদন করেছিল যে, আবেদনকারীর আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে।

০৭ দরপত্র সিদ্ধান্তের মূল্য ও চালান জমার কোড | প্রতিটি সিদ্ধান্তের মূল্য ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফসেটযোগ্য) শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমেদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুরের অনুসূচী সনাদী ব্যাংক, কোট বিল্ডিং শাখা, গাজীপুরে উপস্থাপিত হারে টাকা ড্রেজারী চালানোর মাধ্যমে জমাবোর্ডের নিজেস্ব প্যাকেটে আবেদনকারীর মাধ্যমে চালানোর সত্যায়িত কপি সহ অর্থ দপ্তরের প্রাপ্য শাখা হতে সিদ্ধান্ত সজাহ করা যাবে। কোড নং-২-২১১-০০০০-২০৩৬। |

০৮ দরপত্র সিদ্ধান্ত বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময় | ২৫/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ ৯.০০-১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। |

০৯ দরপত্র জমাদানের তারিখ ও সময় | ২৫/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা (উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে)। |

১০ দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নের তারিখ | ২৫/০৮/২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখ |

১১ দরপত্র জমাদানের পরিমাণ | ২,০০,০০০ (দুই লক্ষ) টাকা |

১২ কার্যের সফলতার বিবরণ | আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে বিভিন্ন পাস ও কাটা পরিচতে ৩৬ (ত্রিশ) জন জনস্বাস্থ্য সর্বসাধারণের কাজ। |

ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	ক্রম নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা
০১	ইন্সপেক্টর/সিএস	০১	০৬	আয়া	০৫
০২	বায়োর্ট	০২	০৭	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী	০৬
০৩	সরকারী বায়োর্ট	০২	০৮	পরিষ্কার কর্মী	১১
০৪	ড্রাম	০২	০৯	মালা	০২
০৫	প্রাণার	০১	১০	হোস্টেল এটেন্ডেন্ট	০৪

অনির্ধারিত কার্যবাহিত্য দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন/খোলার দিন অর্থাৎ বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই স্থানে ও একই সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। দরপত্র কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা দরকার ম্যুয়াম কমিটি সংরক্ষণ করেন।

অধ্যক্ষ কার্যালয়
শহীদ তাজউদ্দীন আহমেদ মেডিকেল কলেজ, গাজীপুর
ফোন: ৪৯২৭০২৫১, ফ্যাক্স: ৪৯২৬১৪২৩
ই-মেইল: stamc@ac.dghs.gov.bd