

A YEAR OF DULALBARIR CHAR ASHRAYAN PROJECT

Residents plagued by problems

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

About one thousand residents of Ashrayan project on Dulalbarir Char, a river island eight kilometres away from Mymensingh city, have been suffering from numerous problems since they were given free houses there by the government last year.

Most members of the low-income families, 240 in total, need to commute to and from the city every day to make a living. But a bamboo bridge made for them over Suti Khal, under the Ashrayan scheme, has become wobbly and hazardous within a few months.

Manik Mia, a grocer and a resident of the project, said many of the wooden planks on the rickety bridge broke down and made it extremely dangerous, especially for children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

The Ashrayan residents suffer the most when they need to cross the bridge in a hurry with a critically-ill patient, he also said.

The bridge is crucial for their livelihoods as their work is mostly in Mymensingh city, said Mohammad Giasuddin, another resident of Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan.

The Ashrayan residents do not have the financial solvency to raise necessary funds for the repair of the dilapidated bridge, he

also said.

Resident Chand Mia drives auto-rickshaw in the city. He said that over one hundred of the residents' children risk their lives while crossing the unsafe bridge on their own when their schools are open.

Third grader Rifat Mia and several other students of nearby Kalyanpur Government Primary School said they get scared every time they have to cross the broken bridge.

The second biggest difficulty the residents of Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan have been facing is the unavailability of adequate number of tube wells for its thousand residents.

Abdur Rahman, another resident, said there are only 24 tube wells available for all the residents, aside from the six new tube wells installed by a non-governmental organization.

An island in the Old Brahmaputra river, Dulalbarir Char, under Mymensingh Sadar upazila, is cut off from the mainland by Suti canal. The island therefore is flood-prone and embankments are necessary to protect its inhabitants and their property, said many of the inhabitants.

Waterlogging in the project area after even a moderate rainfall is another setback that is making their lives miserable, said Jomila Begum of the project.

Many residents alleged that the houses in the project did not have finished floors when those were handed over to them, while others complained of frequent power outages that sometimes last for several days.

Ever since they moved to their new address, their cost of commute rose by Tk 60 to 100 each day, said many residents.

Dolly Islam, a mother of two, said she used to work at a tailor's shop in the city, but the long distance from the city has forced her to quit the job and rely on meagre income of her husband, who is a restaurant worker.

Maharani Chowdhury, 75, said she used to work as a day labourer in the city's old Gudaraghat area, but she now has to depend on financial support from her children.

Asked about the waterlogging problem at the Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan, Mymensingh Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sinful Islam claimed that a proper drainage system, capable of dispersing water accumulated from moderate to heavy rainfall, was made under the project.

On the issue of the dilapidated bamboo bridge, the UNO said a proposal for a bridge, made by the Local Government Engineering Department, was sent to the higher authorities for approval.



In this recent photo, a few of the one thousand residents of the Dulalbarir Char Ashrayan project, in Mymensingh Sadar upazila, are seen crossing the ramshackle bamboo bridge over Suti canal.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Sona Ullah is seen controlling traffic at Rajarhat upazila town.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

73-year-old volunteers in traffic control in Kurigram for survival

Sona Ullah of Rajarhat upazila spent 45 years of his life peddling rickshaw now works daylong as a volunteer traffic controller for some Tk 150 a day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Sona Ullah, who has spent 45 years of his life peddling rickshaw in different parts of the country, now toils hard controlling traffic at Rajarhat upazila town in Kurigram from morning till evening.

Sona Ullah, now 73, has been working on the road as a volunteer traffic controller for the last seven years.

Sona Ullah, a resident of Putikata Mallirapar village of Rajarhat union under Rajarhat, has been working alongside the traffic police voluntarily. Drivers and locals are happy with the work of Sona Ullah, who discharges his duty with efficiency to ease the traffic movement on the busy intersection.

He does not receive any allowance from any department for this work.

However, the truckers give him Tk 5-10 tip for assisting them to pass through the often-gridlocked intersection.

Thus, he earns Tk 120-150 every day. He lives with his wife Nurjahan Begum (67).

His two sons -- Rafiqul Islam and Chan Miah-- live along with their own families elsewhere apart from their parents. Sona Ullah owns only two decimals of land and a small tin-shed house on it.

"Staying on the road spending busy time makes me happy and keeps me healthy," Sona Ullah said. He also said although he and his wife are old enough to receive old age benefits from the government,

but they have not been enlisted to the list of the beneficiaries.

Sona Ullah's wife Nurjahan Begum said that her aged husband earns a little despite toiling hard.

The family is going through a lot of hardships. Even if they want to eat fish and meat, they do not afford it. She feels sorry for her husband but she is also helpless.

Abul Kalam, a traffic policeman at Rajarhat town, said that Sona Ullah plays a very helpful role in reducing traffic congestion. He always cooperates with the work of traffic police.

"We support him personally," he added.

Trucker Nur Jamal, 45, said that they give Sona Ullah a tip of Tk 5-10 as he assists the truck drivers moving their vehicles through the

intersection.

Local businessman Bikash Chandra Roy Tarun told the correspondent that even at the age of 73, Sona Ullah is keeping himself busy with work which is phenomenal.

Pedestrians are also getting benefitted from Sona Ullah's volunteering work, he added.

Rajarhat Upazila Parishad Chairman Enamul Haque said that preparations have been made to pay old age allowance to Sona Ullah and his wife Nurjahan Begum.

The online application has been completed and they will come under this facility this year.

Sona Ullah's voluntary work is phenomenal and he has never come to me for seeking any relief, the chairman added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director (ACE, RHD)
Technical Assistance for Road Transport Connectivity
Improvement Project Preparatory Facility
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
www.rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.2690.071.31.007.2020-040

Date: 09.08.2021

Request for Expressions of Interest (REoI)

(Consulting Services for Feasibility Study on Improvement of 22 road sections (1480 km), Connecting Roads to 3 Logistics Facilities (ICT/ICD) and Road Safety - Firms selection)

Project Title: Loan 6030-BAN: Transport Connectivity Improvement Preparatory Facility (TCIPF)

Assignment: Consulting Services for Feasibility Study on Improvement of 22 road sections (1480 km), Connecting Roads to 3 Logistics Facilities (ICT/ICD) and Road Safety

Reference No.: SVC-P1 (CS-01)

- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan (Loan 6030-BAN) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for implementing the Transport Connectivity Improvement Preparatory Facility (TCIPF) and a part of the loan will be utilized for the Consulting Services for Feasibility Study on Improvement of 22 road sections (1480 km), Connecting Roads to 3 Logistics Facilities (ICT/ICD) and Road Safety at level crossings.
- The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") includes carrying out the tasks mentioned below:
 - upgrading about 1480 km or more of national highways, regional highways and zilla roads ("the project roads") to the standard width and quality and improving the roadway connectivity with the land ports of Bangladesh as would be recommended according to the feasibility study (4 lane, 6 lane etc. keeping a minimum provision of 4 lane with staged construction time frame for such recommendation) with provision for Slow Moving Vehicular Traffic (SMVT) lanes;
 - integration of road, rail and waterway modes of transport of 3 (three) ICT/ICD facilities to the connecting roads;
 - conflict mitigation & ensuring safety at level crossing of road network as would be recommended according to feasibility study.
- Expected date for commencement of the services is May 2022 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 18 (eighteen) months.
- The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) ("the Client") under Road Transport and Highways Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Government of Bangladesh now invites reputed eligible international Consultancy Firms ("the interested Consultant") for Expression of Interest (EoI) in English to provide the Services.
- The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) will conduct the short-listing of the interested consulting firms for the above-mentioned services. The firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The key qualifications and experiences of the Consulting firms required are as follows:
 - Technical Competence: general experience, specific experience in similar assignments (feasibility study/preliminary design of road/bridge in similar road/highway projects with comparable scale and technical specifications);
 - Geographic Experience: experience in similar geographic area;
 - Experience in working with Multilateral Development Banks - MDBs (i.e. ADB, WB etc.);
 - Management Capabilities: Financial (Annual Turnover); capability to retain the required No. of Key Experts who are preferred to be under permanent engagement with the consulting firms with adequate qualifications.
- A Consultancy Firm may associate with other firms to enhance its qualifications, clearly indicating whether the association is in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or a sub-consultancy. In case of a JV, all the partners in the JV shall be individually and jointly liable for the entire contract.
- The Consultancy Firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method following the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time).
- According to the latest ADB procurement guidelines, the REoI for this Consulting Services has been published electronically in the ADB Consultant Management System (CMS) which can be accessed through the following link: https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/adb/xxcrs/isp/ADB_CsmFwd.jsp?sel=171369
The interested consulting firms are hereby advised to access the REoI through the above link. The Consultants shall have to submit their EoIs electronically through the ADB CMS by 11:59pm (Manila local time) on 09 September 2021.
If any contradiction is found between CMS notice and newspaper notice, the information on CMS notice shall prevail.
For technical inquiries/assistance, the interested consulting firms may seek advice by emailing to the following email address: cmshelp@adb.org.
- Offline submission of EoIs is NOT allowed.
- Further information can be obtained at the address of the undersigned given below during office hours from 9:00am to 5:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) preferably by email.
- The Client will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EoI.
- The Client reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason.

Riaz Ahmad Jaber

Project Director (ACE, RHD)
Technical Assistance for Road Transport Connectivity
Improvement Project Preparatory Facility
Room-207, Level-02 (1st Floor), Part-01
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
Mobile: +880-1313-092136
E-mail: pd.tcipf.rhd@gmail.com

GD-1439



The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Gazipur-1703

Local e-Tender Notice

Website: www.spubl.org.bd

e-Tender No. 77/2021

Ref: 53.18.3300.019.07.02.2021

Dated: 10/08/2021

NAME OF WORK: Supplying Fitting and Fixing Mosquito Net on Window & Verandah Grill at Ground Floor of D-Type Residential Building at The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd (SPCBL), Gazipur-1703.

Electronic tenders (e-Tender) are hereby invited from the Contractor having experience of construction work in the departments of PWD/MES/other government, semi-government/autonomous organizations/bank/insurance organizations for the construction of abovementioned structures for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at the website e-tender.spubl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. It is to mention here that this is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender the bidders need to register on e-tender.spubl.org.bd. For more details please contact cell: 88- 01534002183 & 88-01534002184. Necessary information is given below:

- Price per e-Tender schedule : 500 (five hundred) Taka only
- Date of publish of e-Tender : 11/08/2021
- Last date & time for submission of e-Tender : 07/09/2021 up to 11.00am
- Date & time for opening of e-Tender : 07/09/2021 at 11.15am

Bidders may collect the e-Tender schedule from the abovementioned website. Bidders need to submit earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of the "Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd." along with the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of an Account Payee Cheque/Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to submit as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at above website. Offer(s) shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one Construction firm/bidder submitting one offer along with earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Maruf Ahamed

Deputy Chief Engineer (Civil)

Phone: 88-02-9205110-15, Ext.-266

GD-1441

Youth sent to jail for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jashore court sent a youth to jail after he was produced before it on charge of raping a disabled girl in Sadar upazila.

Meanwhile, police arrested the alleged rapist Shahin Hossain, 35, of Chaulia village in the upazila, after mother of the 17-year-old victim filed a case with Jashore Kotwali Police Station accusing him on Sunday night.

According to the case statement, Shahin picked up the victim while she was returning home on Sunday evening.

He took the girl to one Rafiq's house and raped her there.

After returning home the victim disclose the matter to her parents, who informed the police of the matter.

Being informed, police went to the victim's house first and then admitted her to Jashore General Hospital for medical test, Officer in Charge of Kotwali Police Station Tajul Islam said.