Decision to shut Patuakhali fertilizer warehouse creates uncertainty over timely supply to farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Supply of fertilizer among dealers from the godown in Laukathi area of Patuakhali has been suspended due to the dilapidated condition of the warehouse. The closure of the godown has raised concerns about the timely delivery of fertilizer from Barishal to Patuakhali at the farmers' level disrupting the current Aman cultivation and production.

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has written a letter to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali to instruct the local dealers to bring fertilizer from the Bangladesh Fertilizer Association (BFA) godown in Barishal.

Meanwhile, the dealers have also sent a letter to BCIC chairman not to shut the godown here considering the farmers' interest.

However, BCIC's General Manager (Marketing) Md Manjur Reza in the letter on June 24 stated that the fertilizer godown in Patuakhali is old and unusable. Although the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory

Limited (CUFL) took initiative to repair the warehouse, it has not been possible to repair it and make it usable. Therefore, it has been decided to supply fertilizer to Patuakhali dealers from the BFA warehouse in Barishal.

Later, the DC on July 8 formed three-member committee headed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) GM Sarfaraz. The other two members of the committee are AKM Mohiuddin, deputy director, Department of Agricultural Extension and Mashiul Islam, Patuakhali godown in-charge. The committee monitored the overall condition of the warehouse and submitted a report with recommendations on July 28.

The report stated that some parts of the godown are flooded after heavy rains because of the leakage in the roof and the godown will be usable for a few more years if it is repaired. The estimated cost for the repair work is Tk 31.87 lakh.

The report also mentioned that Aman has been cultivated in 2

Authorities have decided to supply fertilizer to Patuakhali dealers from the BFA warehouse in Barishal.

lakh hectares of land in the district. Disruption in the supply of fertilizers will adversely impact the production of Aman.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Fertilizer Association (BFA) Patuakhali unit president Golam Sarwar and general secretary Nurul Amin have written to the BCIC chairman not to shut down the godown.

Golam Sarwar said there are 78 fertilizer dealers in the district. For the last 14 years, the dealers have been supplying fertilizer from the local godown. But now bringing fertilizer from Barishal will not be cost and time effective. Dealers in Patuakhali will suffer more to extract

Shahidul Islam, a fertilizer dealer in Patuakhali, said, "I deposited money in the bank for extracting fertilizer from Barishal warehouse four to five days ago but I have not been able to extract fertilizer from there yet."

Nurul Amin, a dealer of Barabaishadia union in Rangabali upazila, said the upazila is an isolated one. There is no alternative way to get fertilizer without waterways. Time and cost of fertilizer extraction will increase in case of Barishal warehouse and timely delivery of fertilizer to farmers will become uncertain.

According to the fertilizer godown, 18,062 tonnes of fertilizer were supplied to dealers from July 1 last year to June 30 this year. In August, 4,700 tonnes of fertilizer was allocated. Of them, 75 percent came from Barishal and 25 percent from Patuakhali warehouse. The supply of fertilizer to the Patuakhali godown finished on August 23.



Bangladesh Fertilizer Association (BFA) godown in Laukathi area of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR



In this recent photo taken in Putadahar village of Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila, villagers show the un-insulated single-phase live electrical wire dangling right above their heads.

Where lives don't matter

Our Correspondent, Moulvibazar

In a display of downright disregard for safety of citizens, the Power Development Board (PDB) in Barlekha upazila is yet to rectify a risky and un-insulted powerline that was installed about a decade and half ago, using trees and bamboo poles through different villages.

The powerline was installed to serve more than five hundred subscribers Kashemnagar, Putadahar, Dohalia and Gajbhag villages in the upazila. But aside from being victims of electrocution every now and then, the subscribers had long been suffering from low voltage, dubious bills and extortion by PDB staffers.

Finally, in their desperate bid to a resolution to the longstanding problems, the subscribers of the four villages recently filed a written petition with the executive engineer concerned at PDB office in Kulaura.

Copies of the petition were also sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, among other offices concerned.

Except for a few authorised concrete electric poles, the PDB mostly used trees and bamboo poles in installation of the singlephase powerline, without protective insulation, about 15 to 16 years ago.

Over time, when the concrete poles broke down, those were also replaced by more bamboo poles or tree branches. At some places, the live electric wire is hanging only five to six feet above the ground, according to the petition.

Though many villagers oftentimes get electrocuted after touching the wire inadvertently, the authorities over the years took no step for their protection, alleged locals.

in their homes at night time and

to low voltage of power supplied Union Parishad.

through the line, they also said. Jasim Mia said incidents of people any fault in the risky line without getting electric shocks from the underhand cash payment, he said, exposed wire and electrical appliances alleging that the villagers even had to getting damaged due to low voltage are quite common in the area.

The powerline was installed to serve more than five hundred subscribers of Kashemnagar, Putadahar, Dohalia and Gajbhag villages in the upazila. But aside from being victims of electrocution every now and then, the subscribers had long been suffering from low voltage, dubious bills and extortion by PDB staffers.

Badrul Islam, another resident of the same village, said although they had been risking their lives while going to places or working in crop fields near the makeshift powerline and at the same time enduring sufferings for the overbilling, nothing had been done so far to end their

in all rooms of a house to be able of PDB?"

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়ঃ পুরাতন বিমান বন্দর ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫

ফোনঃ এক্সচেঞ্জ ৫৫০৬০০০০ সম্প্রসারণ ৫০৯৯

www.bsmraau.edu.bd, registrar@bsmraau.edu.bd

their essential household appliances to get a fan rotate fast enough in a including refrigerators, water pumps hot summer night, said Azir Uddin, and fans get damaged frequently due chairman of Dakshinbhag Dakshin

Electrical accidents are rampant Kashemnagar village resident and the PDB workers do not fix pay for the cost when a transformer needed to be replaced.

Despite the fact, electricity connections to new households are being given all the time and people are resorting to paying unscrupulous PDB employees to resolve problems with their electrical connections, said

Taking advantage of the situation, one Rabiul Alam, introducing himself as a PDB lineman, assured the villagers of solving all their problems and collected Tk 45,000 from them about a couple of years ago, claimed Gajbhag village resident Sayed Mia.

Rebutting the claim, Rabiul said, "I am not a PDB employee. Customers made the payment to a local electrician as part of payment to the contractor responsible for repairing the line. I was just present there at the time."

PDB Contacted, Executive Engineer in Kulaura Usman Gani confirmed receipt of the petition from four villages in Barlekha upazila.

Refusing to accept responsibility for installing a powerline using trees or bamboo poles, he said the problems would be resolved soon as a new development project was being undertaken in the area.

Regarding the payment of Tk 45,000, made to Rabiul Alam, he said, "We don't have any worker The voltage is so low that they have named Rabiul. What can we do if Besides, students cannot study to turn off all lights and equipment someone extorts money in the name

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Engineer Health Engineering Department (HED) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

মুজিব বর্ষে স্বাস্থ্য খাত এগিয়ে যাবে অনেক ধাপ

Memo No. 45.02.0000.001.14.013.21-1914

Date: 07-09-2021

Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Sealed Expressions of Interest (EOI) are hereby invited from among the eligible Architectural & Engineering Consulting Firms. The details of EOI are shown in the table below: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

	2.	Agency	Health Engineering Department (HED).	
	3.	Name of procuring entity	Chief Engineer, Health Engineering Department (HED).	
	4.	Procuring entity code	None.	
	5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
	6.	Expression of Interest for selection of	Well experienced reputed National Architectural and Engineering Consulting firms.	
	7.	EOI Ref. No.	MoHFW Letter No. 59.00.0000.152.14.007.2020-180	
	8.	Date	25.08.2021	
KEY INFORMATION				
	9.	Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).	
FUNDING INFORMATION				
L	10.	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB) under Development Budget.	
	11.	Development partners (if applicable)	None.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
	12.	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
	13.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Expansion and Modernization of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS), Dhaka, Bangladesh.	
	14.	i. Submission of EOI	Expression of Interest (EOI) {both hard copy (one original & one copy) & soft copy}, with the name of the assignment to be mentioned on the envelope or cover sheet, must be delivered to the address below (SI. 20-23).	
		ii. EOI closing date and time		
	INFORMATION FOR INTERESTED CONSULTING FIRMS			

Brief description of the

services

Consultancy services (Civil Construction and Renovation part) for Expansion and Modernization of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS), Dhaka, assignment

[Package No. HED/BCPS-1]

The capacity of the existing auditorium at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons Brief description of the (BCPS) is insufficient, and the auditorium is guite old, so a new auditorium with a greater capacity is required to meet the actual demand. Furthermore, in terms of BCPS needs, there is a crisis in classrooms, hall rooms, examination halls, and so on. For BCPS to be modernized, it will need to build a medical museum, a skill development

> one facility, a 12-story multi-purpose building with three basements having a new auditorium with 1500 seats is envisaged. As a result, appointing a consultant firm to plan the construction of a 12-story structure with

lab, a scientific conference room and a meeting room. To accommodate these services in

a 1500 seat capacity auditorium, basement, architectural design, and structural design is required. Following the completion of the architectural design, the consulting firm will create the

initial structural design, sanitary and plumbing design, electrical design as well as electro mechanical design (Central Air Conditioning System, fire fighting, lift and substation etc), acoustic design, proper sound and lighting system for auditorium in order to carry out the construction work properly. The design will be finalized by the design section of Department of Health Engineering Department (HED), which will implement the construction work as executing agency. All the designs would be completed: Construction on the installation would have to begin after HED gave its clearance. A senior architect from the consulting firm, a senior structural engineer, and a senior electromechanical engineer having expertise in HVAC system from the consultant firm will check the construction activity at least twice a month during the project to guarantee appropriate implementation of the design. As per the above scope of work, the estimate of the consulting service fee of the consulting

firm has been prepared as per the guideline of fee given in Schedule-9 of PPR 2006 [Rule

Other details (if applicable)

The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following: Information of the firms such as

(a) Certificate of incorporation, (b) Updated trade license,

(c) Turnover of the firm (last 5 years counting backward from date of EOI publication), (d) Document supporting financial capacity of the firm (last 5 years counting backward from date of EOI publication),

(e) Support service of the consulting firms, etc.

Availability of key professional staff with the experience of similar works/assignments. Availability of key professional staff with the experience of others works/assignments.

Experience of the consulting firms in similar assignments (including design, drawing

v. Experience of the consulting firms in other works/assignments (including design,

drawing & supervision). Association with foreign firms is: Not applicable

Ref. No. Phasing of services Indicative start date Indicative completion date (month/year) (month/year)

ভর্তি পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে বঙ্গাবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ২০২০-২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষের সকল বিভাগের ভর্তি পরীক্ষা প্রবেশপত্রে উল্লিখিত কেন্দ্রসমূহে আগামী ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, লালমনিরহাট কেন্দ্রের শিক্ষার্থীগণের ভর্তি পরীক্ষা "ফাকল পুলিশ লাইন্স স্থূল এন্ড কলেজ, লালমনিরহাট" এ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

> -রেজিস্ট্রার বিএসএমআরএএইউ

GD-1602

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS Name of the official inviting EOI Brigadier General Bashir Ahmed, ndc, psc Designation of the official inviting EOI Chief Engineer. Address of the official inviting EOI Health Engineering Department, 105-106, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000. Contact details of the official inviting EOI Telephone No. 958917, 9577918 Fax No.: 9587601 III. E-mail address: hedhq@yahoo.com Interested Consultants may obtain further information from the address above between 09:00am to 5.00pm on all working days until the deadline of EOI submission. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all EOIs.

> Brigadier General Bashir Ahmed, ndc, psc Health Engineering Department

GD-1597