

A ‘hospital’ for treating struggling students



PHOTO: STAR

MINTU DESHWARA, from Sreemangal

When schools reopened after the Covid-enforced closures, many students, especially at the primary level, were found to be lagging behind in their studies. Like the rest of the country, the situation was quite grim in Sreemangal. That's when Ali Rajib Mahmud Mithu, the upazila nirbahi officer of Sreemangal, decided to take matters into his own hands. He came up with an innovative idea -- Reading and Writing Hospital.

The UNO launched the academic programme in 39 primary schools, where weak students are divided into small groups and receive daily hour-long academic support, mainly from their peers. A good student of the class -- "a doctor" -- is tasked with helping each group with their studies, while a teacher is assigned to monitor and guide them in the activities. The doctors also wear aprons while checking on students within their groups. Over time, the students have been

showing progress and are now being able to catch up with their studies. The students are also motivated to give extra effort to their learning with the "Student of the Day" award, presented to the best performer. Visiting Sinhabeez Government Primary School in Sreemangal recently, this correspondent saw two rooms were taken for the hospital's operation, with 30 students in six groups being helped with their studies in one room, while the other was used to check their learning outcomes. A teacher was seen teaching the students, while the doctors of the hospital were helping their respective groups. Letters, words and sentences were seen hung on the wall, while newspapers and books were kept on stands. Students who demonstrated their improvement were being released from the hospital, while others in need were taking up their places. Rubel Mia, a student of class four, said, "I struggled to write English and Bangla properly. I was too afraid of the teachers. But now, my friends are teaching me. Learning has

become a fun experience. My academic performance has also improved." Tanmou Bhattacharya, from the same class, said, "I am a doctor, so I teach my friends. For that, I have to understand the lessons thoroughly. This also helped me improve myself." Malay Kanti Talukdar, headteacher of the school, said the UNO's initiative has been benefitting the students of the school significantly. "About 39 school teachers and upazila assistant education workers are involved in this initiative," UNO Rajib said. They are now preparing to launch this programme in all the schools in the upazila. The students are also getting more interested in their studies due to this initiative, and are showing improvement in their class performances, he said. The UNO said the Moulvibazar deputy commissioner is also supervising the initiative. "I want such learning activities to be initiated in all schools of the country," he added.

Jubo Dal leader torched bus wearing 'press' vest
Says DB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo Dal leader wearing a "press" vest torched a bus in Dhaka's Kakrail during Saturday's clash between BNP men and law enforcers. Rabiul Islam Nayan, member secretary of Jubo Dal's Dhaka south unit was identified from CCTV footage, DB chief Harun Or Rashid told reporters on Monday. Police are carrying out drives to arrest him. Nayan was previously arrested for arson attacks on buses in 2013-14, he said. After Asian Paribahan came under arson attack on Saturday, the bus driver claimed two people riding a bike wearing "police" vests set the vehicle on fire.

Ensure potato sales at govt-fixed rate

Commerce ministry asks DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The commerce ministry yesterday directed the district administrations to ensure sales of potatoes at the government's fixed rate at the cold storages, according to a statement. It has asked the deputy commissioners to ensure that the popular vegetables will be sold at Tk 26-Tk 27 per kilogramme from today. The directive comes a day after the ministry, for the first time, decided to allow the import of potatoes in face of spiralling prices in the domestic market. Yesterday, the root vegetables were sold at as high as Tk 65 per kilogramme in the markets in Dhaka, the highest in history, even though the government agencies estimated 1.04 crore tonnes of production in the last harvesting season, which is higher than the season prior to it. In its letter to the DCs, the ministry

mentioned traders were selling potatoes at a higher price than the price set by the government. On September 14, the government fixed the rate of potato at Tk 26-Tk 27 per kg at cold storage and Tk 35-Tk 36 per kg at the retail level. The ministry said it took the decision to stabilise the potato market in the interest of the public, under The Control of Essential Commodities Act-1956. However, Anwar Faruque, former agriculture secretary, said it was not the right decision from the government to fix potato prices. "The government does not fix rates when prices fall. Last year, farmers and traders suffered losses because of falling prices. If so, why will it fix prices now?" he questioned. Faruque also opposed the decision of selling potatoes from cold storages under supervision of district administration.

BNP accuses PM of spreading false narrative

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday accused Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of spreading lies at her press conference to cover up what happened during BNP's Nayapaltan rally on Saturday. "What the prime minister said was an unstoppable stream of lies. I would like to tell her that videos of all things that happened on October 28 were captured as cameras are now in people's hands," said BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi. Speaking at a virtual press briefing, he also said no incident now remains out of sight of people in this age of technology. "You [PM] can tell lies, but you won't be able to cover up the truth," he added. The BNP leader said available videos suggest that some people were vandalising the main gate of the chief justice's residence and other establishments with police protection. "The government and its law enforcement agencies did it to create tension and foil the BNP's rally by carrying out untoward incidents as per their premeditated plans," Rizvi claimed. He also said a video was found on how the ruling party men used a bus driver to torch a bus in front of the national Eidgah ground in the capital yesterday. The government might try to intimidate people by

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Hold dialogue to resolve crisis

JP lawmakers urge PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several Jatiya Party MPs yesterday told parliament that the country's economic situation may worsen if a one-sided election is held in the country. Participating in discussion on a bill, they also called upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to hold dialogue to find a solution to the ongoing political crisis across the country. While participating in the discussion on "Districts (Extension to the Chattogram Hill Tracts) Bill", JP MP Shameem Haider Patwary feared that the economic situation of the country may deteriorate in the future if there is a one-sided election. "People are panicked. Since the government is in power, the power to resolve [the ongoing crisis] is also in its hands." Another JP MP Hafiz Uddin Ahmad said today the whole country is in turmoil. Fighting is taking place at different places during the ongoing blockade programme, he added. He also said the country is heading towards a situation like that of 2014 elections. Hafiz Uddin said, "Garment workers are taking to the streets ... The Election Commission is

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Roads and Highways Department
Bridge Construction and Maintenance Circle
SarakBhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh

Memo No. 35.01.0000.152.14.058.2023.601

Date. 29.10.2023

Request for Expression of Interests (EoI)

Request for Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Consultancy Service for Detailed Geotechnical Investigation for the 2nd Sultana Kamal Bridge over the River Shitalakhya at Narayanganj under Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh.

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) will provide fund from operating budget (all payments regarding consultancy services will be made in Bangladeshi Taka) towards the cost of "Consultancy Service for Detailed Geotechnical Investigation for the 2nd Sultana Kamal Bridge over the River Shitalakhya at Narayanganj under Roads and Highways Department, Banglades" by engaging consulting firm(s).

2. The scope of the Consultancy service is to conduct detailed geotechnical investigation including site history, site reconnaissance, soil sampling, laboratory testing, groundwater investigation, geotechnical and seismic hazard analysis, liquefaction susceptibility analysis etc.

Hence, the consultancy services include carrying out the tasks mentioned below:

- a. **Task-1.** This includes reviewing available geological and geotechnical data for the proposed bridge area, visual inspection to identify surface features, drainage pattern and potential source of geotechnical concerns. It also includes collection of soil sample up to required depth at designated locations in the area of the proposed bridge.
- b. **Task-2.** This includes relevant tests of soil samples in laboratory such as grain size analysis, moisture content, Atterberg limits, shear strength, consolidation test, specific gravity test, soil classification, sub-surface profile and analysis, slope stability, settlement etc.
- c. **Task-3:** This includes detailed geotechnical analysis and preparation of reports summarizing findings and recommendations for foundation types, earth retaining structures, pavement design and earthquake-resistant design.

3. The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) (Executing Agency) under the Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (MoRTB) now invites Expressions of interest (EoI) in English, from reputed consulting firm(s) either as individual firm or in Joint Venture/Association for short listing of Firm(s) for the captioned service.

4. Consultants will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Rules, 2008 (PPR 2008) considering all subsequent amendments.

5. The interested consultants must have the following experiences of rendering services within last 5 (Five) years.

- a. Experience of at least 02 (two) detailed geotechnical consultancy services for construction of long span bridges in river/channels including viaduct.
- b. Satisfactory completion of detailed geotechnical consultancy services of highway/bridge approach road of at least 02(Two) highway projects.

6. The EoI should especially include (along with certified English Translation if not English).

- a. The firm's registration certificate, Legal Entitlements of the Firm (Trade License, TIN, VAT, Registration, etc.);
- b. Company profile: including management, personnel (especially key personnel regarding consultancy services), firm's specialty, performance;
- c. The latest annual report;
- d. General and overall experience of firm(s) (limited to 5 pages) and experience of similar nature of services in last 5 years including procuring entity's name, nature of services, contract amount, person-months, duration of the services with commencement and completion date;
- e. Summary of permanent professional employees with key qualifications;
- f. Audited financial statement (Balance sheet, Profit & Loss Account and Cash Flow Statement) for last 3 (three) years; and
- g. Average annual turnover in last 3 (three) years.

7. Interested applicants may obtain further information by applying to the undersigned during normal office hour or through email.

8. With all supporting documents, the EoI must be submitted to the signatory addressed at or before 2.00 pm **Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) on 16th November 2023 (Thursday)** in sealed envelopes (One original and One copy) marked with "**Request for Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Consultancy Service for Detailed Geotechnical Investigation for the 2nd Sultana Kamal Bridge over the River Shitalakhya at Narayanganj under Roads and Highways Department, Bangladesh**". Any late submission will be rejected.

9. The Procuring Entity shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EoI. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Expression of Interests (EoI) without assigning any reason.

29.10.2023

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Tender No : HO/ICT/2023/40	Ref No: HO/Procurement/ICT/2023/1442/1	Dated: 29.10.2023
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Name of work	Tender Selling Last Date and Time	Tender Price (Non Refundable)	Last Date & Time for Tender & Security Submission (Refundable)	Tender/Proposal Opening Time
Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Lot 01: 40(Forty) sets PC; Lot 2: 45 (forty-Five) sets UPS (Offline, 650VA); Lot 03: 06(six) sets Laser Printer (Tray-1), 13(Thirteen) sets Network Printer (Tray-2) and 01 sets Monitor for Different Division of Head Office, Rupali Bank Ltd.	16/11/2023 Up to Time: 04:30 PM	Lot-1: Tk.5,000/- (Five Thousand Only) Lot-2: Tk. 700/- (Seven Hundred Only) Lot-3: Tk. 1,000/- (One Thousand Only) Note: Price of Tender Documents is Non-refundable and to be furnished through PO/DD favouring "Rupali Bank Ltd." from any branch of Rupali Bank Limited. The purchased original tender document must be submitted with the offer.	19/11/2023 Time : 11:00 PM Lot-1: TK- 87,100/- (Eighty Seven thousand and one hundred Only) Lot-2: TK. 4,540/- (Four Thousand Five Hundred and Forty only) Lot-3: TK. 14,170/- (Fourteen Thousand one hundred and Seventy only).	19/11/2023 Time : 11:30 PM

Note: Details in Rupali Bank Limited Web Site: <https://www.rupalibank.com.bd>

(Signed)
Salamun Nesa, General Manager
Rupali Bank Ltd., Procurement Division
Head Office, 5th Floor, 34, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.