

A 'free ride' to woo voters

Amusement park owned by Dinajpur-6 AL candidate offers free entry to locals

KONGKON KARMAKER

While candidates come up with a lot of strategies to sway voters in their favour, the Awami League candidate of Dinajpur-6 has allegedly gone for a rather unusual approach – offering free entry to an amusement park.

Swapnopuri, the largest private amusement park in Dinajpur's Nawabganj upazila, is now offering free entry to the voters in Dinajpur-6 constituency, which comprises Nawabganj, Birampur, Hakimpur, and Ghoraghat upazilas.

Shibli Sadeeq, an incumbent lawmaker, is contesting the polls from this constituency with the

"boat" symbol.

He is also the managing director of the park while being a 50-percent shareholder.

The usual per person entry fee in that park is Tk 100, according to locals. But now it costs nothing, allegedly to influence the constituency's voters, which has also triggered the question of a probable violation of the electoral code of conduct.

The free entry has been effective since December 25 and will continue till January 4, said locals. The visitors will have to carry a copy of their national ID card and provide their information.

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A makeshift campaign office of the Awami League candidate has been set up on the footpath in Uttar Badda area, obstructing pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

AL, independent candidates show-cause in Pabna

STAR REPORT

The electoral enquiry committee yesterday issued show-cause notices to the Pabna-3 Awami League candidate Md Mokbul Hossain and independent candidate Abdul Hamid Master for violating the electoral code of conduct.

Md Tazul Islam, Pabna joint district judge and electoral enquiry committee chairman, issued separate show-cause notices to the candidates for setting up excessive election camps in the constituency.

Mokbul, the incumbent lawmaker from Pabna-3, and Hamid, an AL leader, have been asked to appear before the committee on Sunday to submit explanations.

Seventeen notices have been issued in the Pabna-3 constituency so far, ahead of the 12th parliamentary election on January 7.

These were the first show-cause notices issued against Mokbul and Hamid.

41.9 tonnes of imported rawhide seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Customs officials seized 41.9 tonnes of imported buffalo rawhide at Benapole Port on Thursday night.

According to customs sources, the seizure was made due to a violation of import permission conditions on the import of animals and animal products.

Chanpur Tannery Ltd Dhaka is the importer of the consignment.

On December 19, the 41.9 tonnes of buffalo rawhide was imported from India.

A C&F agent named Supreme Associates submitted a bill of entry to the customs house for delivery of the consignment, said Sharsha Upazila Animal Resources Officer Binay Krishna.

Import of such goods without quarantine certificate is strictly prohibited, he added.

BARGUNA-1

Independents giving Shambhu a run for his money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, five-time lawmaker from Barguna-1 (Sadar, Amtali, Taltali) and Awami League candidate from the constituency in the January 7 polls, is under pressure from three heavyweight independent candidates from the same party.

Deprived of the party's nomination, Barguna district AL joint general secretary Golam Sarwar Tuku (eagle), former relief and social welfare secretary of AL central sub-committee Khalilur Rahman (truck) and former Amtali upazila AL unit president Golam Charwar Forkan (scissor), are vying for the polls as independent aspirants.

They have been campaigning against Shambhu from the very beginning.

The independent candidates, in their efforts to woo the voters at public gatherings, have been raising numerous allegations against Shambhu, and claimed that people now want to see change.

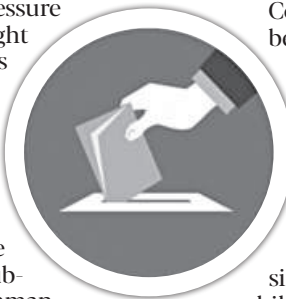
Contacted, Tuku said despite being a lawmaker five times since 1991, Shambhu could not bring about any visible development to Barguna.

"The district still lags behind in education, health, communication and infrastructure.

There has not been a single bridge constructed, while the neighbouring Patuakhali district saw establishment of a university, a medical college, Payra port, thermal power station, and cantonment," he said.

Forkan alleged that Shambhu

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As water of local fish enclosures recedes during the winter, locals of Khulna's Dakope upazila go fishing. They extract the remaining water and turn the activity into a fun-filled family event. The photo was taken yesterday.

BNP has no right to do politics

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Hasina introduced the AL and 14-party alliance candidates in Barishal division to the audience.

The PM said whenever the AL comes to power, the country moves forward. This advancement has to be continued, she added.

She said the development of Bangladesh is visible now and this has been possible due to the AL's continuation in power for 15 years.

The premier said her government will supply gas to Barishal for massive industrialisation and development of the region.

She said a medical university will be set up in Barishal like the other divisional headquarters in

the country.

Hasina said if the AL is voted to power again, her government will construct a six-lane road from Bhanga to Barishal to ease communication.

Referring to her party's goal to build "smart Bangladesh" by 2041, the AL chief said, "Our children will be provided with proper education.

"They will learn science and technology, and become skilled human resources. We will build them as smart and skilled human resources."

In "smart Bangladesh", the government will be smart using digital technology, agriculture will be mechanised, economy

will be smart economy and the society will be turned into a smart society, she said.

She called upon the students to continue their studies attentively, as no country gets developed without proper education.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Barishal City Corporation Mayor Abul Khair Abdullah, AL advisory council members Amir Hossain Amu and Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, and Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, among others, also spoke at the rally, with Barishal AL President Abul Hasnat Abdullah in the chair.

Ulfa faction

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figures such as Paresh Baruah, Arabinda Rajkhowa, and Anup Chetia.

It was banned by the Indian government in 1990 for taking part in subversive and violent activities.

The Rajkhowa faction joined peace talks with the government on September 3, 2011, after an agreement for suspension of operations was signed between it and central and state governments.

Without naming Dhaka's handing over the top leaders of Ulfa, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior Indian leaders have time and again recalled Bangladesh's exemplary cooperation in security matters that helped to restore peace in Assam.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No.:35.01.0000.059.31.007.23-1377

Date: 28 December 2023

Invitation for Bids

Date : 28 December 2023
Loan No. and Title : 2884-BAN: Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport).
Contract No. and Title : PD/GDSUTP(BRT,Gazipur-Airport)RHD/ICB/ADB08/RPW-05 Design, Supply and Installation of Solar-powered Highway Lighting along the BRT Corridor including the provision of Solar Panels at Bus Stations under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport).
Deadline for Submission of Bids : 14 February 2024, upto 12:00 hr (Bangladesh Standard Time)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh ("the borrower") has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- Roads and Highways Department ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Design, Supply and Installation of Solar-powered Highway Lighting along the BRT Corridor including the provision of Solar Panels at Bus Stations under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport).
- Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the bidding document may participate in this bidding:
 - Minimum average annual turnover of **USD 9.00 million** calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.
 - The Bidder must demonstrate that its financial resources less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments meet or exceed the total requirement for the Subject Contract of **USD 1.70 million**.
 - Participation as a prime contractor or joint Venture partner in at least one contract of supply and installation of solar power plant and streetlight system that has been successfully completed within the last **ten (10) years** and that is similar to the proposed contract, where the value of the Bidder's participation in the contract shall not be less than **USD 3.00 million**. The solar power plant work and the streetlighting work may be in separate contracts in which case any one of the contracts shall be of minimum value **USD 3.00 million**.
- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents during normal office hours (From 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (local time) on all working days, bidders should contact:


Attention: Project Director, Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport)
Street Address: House No.04 (2nd Floor), Road No.21, Sector-04, Uttara.
City: Dhaka
ZIP Code: 1230
Country: Bangladesh
Telephone: +88-02-8932135
Electronic mail address: pdrhd.gdsutp@gmail.com

- To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders should:
 - Write to the above address requesting the bidding documents.
 - Pay a non-refundable fee of **BDT 10,000.00**. The mode of payment shall be a pay order in favor of **Project Manager 1 RHD GDSUTP**

- Deliver your bid:
 - to the address: House No.04 (2nd Floor), Road No.21, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
 - on or before the deadline: **14 February 2024, upto 12:00 hr (Bangladesh Standard Time)**
 - together with a Bid Security of **BDT 70,00,000.00 or USD 60,000.00**

Bids will be opened at the address indicated in the bidding document immediately after the deadline of bid submission in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

- The Invitation for Bids (IFB) is also available in the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and dg Market web pages at www.rhd.gov.bd, www.cptu.gov.bd, www.adb.org and www.dgmarket.com respectively.


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