and Lalmonirhat

with Tk 400, their daily wage.

a 67-year-old farmer.

Kurigram 17,82,032.

more worried about making ends meet."

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

While electioneering is going on in full swing across the

country, day labourers Abdur Rahim and Abdul Awal in

Kurigram Sadar are yet to decide whether they will vote.

located on the banks of Dharla river at Holokhana.

Both are in their early sixties, living in Sardob, a village

They said they have no other plans for the day but to

"I had visited the polling centre during the 10th and

set off early in the morning to ensure they return home

11th polls but could not vote as it was already cast. I am

no longer interested... ," said Rahim. Awal said, "I'm

Most villagers in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat said the

"None of the candidates visited our village yet. So, I

However, things were not like this before, mentioned

Lutfar Mia, a 55-year-old farmer from Kalmati

Mentionable, 45 candidates are contesting from

three constituencies in Lalmonirhat and four in

Kurigram. Lalmonirhat has 10,62,094 voters while

Salim. Political discussions used to be common at tea

village at the Teesta riverbank, said, "I might not vote

stalls, abuzz with locals from morning to night.

this year... a third time in a row," he said.

Stay alert against

same, adding they are yet to witness the "election hype".

am unsure if I want to vote this year," said Salim Uddin,

# **NEWS**

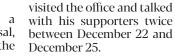
## Govt office

#### FROM PAGE 3

municipality and of Faisal, supporter said, "We came to the December 25. municipality office to show our support for Faisal."

On December 22, Faisal was photographed with his supporters in the office, campaigning with scissors. Faisal's supporters actively shared these campaign photographs on social media platforms. Faisal's supporters

assemble at the office daily to discuss and plan the campaign, said Munshiganj municipality adding that Faisal himself



Contacted, Faisal denied such allegations. " I always try to abide by the electoral code of conduct," he said.

Abu Jafor Ripon, returning officer and deputy commissioner of Munshiganj, could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

However, Afifa Khan, assistant returning officer, said, "We don't know anything about this matter. officials, We'll take necessary steps if

we receive any complaints."

US team FROM PAGE 3 of the foreign ministry,

were also present. While speaking to

reporters, DB Chief Harun Or Rashid said another group of the joint team asked about arrests of top BNP leaders and how they were treated in custody.

The members also asked about BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and sabotage centring the election.

They enquired about the attack on Ashraful Hossain Alom, also known as Hero Alom.

"We informed them that those (BNP leaders) we have arrested are all FIR-listed accused. Besides, some senior BNP leaders also visited the DB office. None of them said we have misbehaved with them or that they were tortured."

"When the team asked about BNP leader Rizvi, we told them he is accused several cases. Yet, in is distributing antihe government and anti-state leaflets. We showed them the BNP leaflets stating, 'boycott election, don't give

tax'," he added. Regarding Hero Alom, Harun said, "We told them that it's an incident of the previous election and it happened on the road outside the polling centre. involved in this incident."





Mr. Mohd. Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan and Mr. Md. Maniruzzaman Molla were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. They were re-elected unanimously at the 56<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors of

Frust Islami Life Insurance Limited on Wednesday (27 December). Ir. Mohd. Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan is the Chairman and Managing Director of Toma Group.

Mr. Md. Maniruzzaman Molla is a Director of Union Label & amp: Accessories Ltd. Union Electronics Industries Ltd, Eastern University and Glossy Design.

> শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

**BNP** on the run 'More worried about making ends meet' Most Sylhet leaders hiding to avoid arrest; No polls hype in Kurigram Mymensingh office padlocked since Oct 29

### DWOHA CHOWDHURY and AMINUL ISLAM

BNP is facing an uphill battle in different parts of the country in maintaining its existence on the streets due to mass arrests.

In Sylhet, over 300 BNP leaders and activists are in jail. Their programmes are mostly confined to leaflet distribution, that too on a limited scale.

On December 23, police arrested five individuals, including BNP Sylhet city unit general secretary Emdad Hossain Chowdhury and Jubo Dal's Sylhet district unit president Muminul Islam, while they were distributing leaflets in Bandarbazar.

BNP leaders alleged that law enforcement agencies are raiding the

such direction to law enforcement agencies, there is no reflection of that." MYMENSINGH

Turning westward, in Mymenshingh city the BNP office has remained padlocked since October 29.

AKM Mahbubur Rahman, jointconvener of Mymensingh City BNP alleged they cannot gather at the party office on Horikishore Roy Road due to police raids.

Many leaders are also on the run to avoid arrests under different "false" cases, Mahbub said.

Md Jewel Mia, caretaker of the office, said he had never witnessed such a situation under any elected government during his service at the office in 26 years.



BNP office in Mymensingh has remained padlocked since October 29. PHOTO: STAR

houses of its activists to make arrests.

BNP and its allies have no running office in Sylhet due to continuous raids and arrest sprees by law enforcers, they added.

Moksud Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet Jubo Dal, said, "We can't stay at home or roam openly in the street... I am also living a fugitive life with 10 fresh cases."

On Saturday, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal, in his visit to Sylhet, said BNP boycotting the polls is a democratic right, and law enforcers were directed to consider it that way if BNP remains peaceful.

Abdul Quiyum Chowdhury, president of the Sylhet district unit of BNP, said, "Two of our leaders were recently arrested during a peaceful leaflet distribution programme. Even if the CEC truly gave

"We have been continuing our programme of distributing anti-election leaflets in the city and other parts of the district, but we are in constant fear of police arrest," said a BNP leader.

After the arrest of Emran Saleh Prince, a central leader and organising secretary of BNP in Mymensingh, most party men have gone into hiding.

Police recently arrested 10 BNP men from different areas of the city when they were preparing for protest rallies.

OC Md Faruq Hossain of Mymensingh district Detective Branch of Police said he was not aware of the BNP office being padlocked. BNP men can gather at their office, as there is no bar from police. Police only arrested those accused in different cases, he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Department of Public Health Engineering Office of the Project Director Flood Reconstruction Emergency Assistance Project for Water Supply and Sanitation (GoB-ADB)

DPHE Bhaban (4th Floor), 14, Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000

#### www.dphe.gov.bd

The Consultant will be selected under Quality and Cost Based selection (QCBS 90:10) method in accordance with 6. the procedures set out in the ADB Procurement Policy 2017 ("Policy") and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers 2017 ("Regulations"):

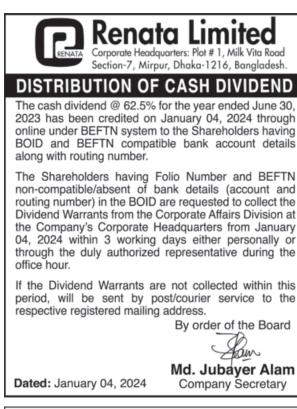
#### https://www.adb.org/documents/adb-procurement-policy

https://www.adb.org/documents/procurement-regulations-adb-borrowers

'Short-listing' of the Consulting Firms submitting Expression of Interest (EOI) will be done by Department of Public

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Former mayor and independent candidate Mohammad Faisal (centre) at a meeting with his supporters at the Munshiganj municipality office on December 22.



We arrested all those

Haider Chowdhury and BFUJ Akter Hossain. secretary general Dip Azad moderated the meeting. Mozammel

FROM PAGE 3

Babu, president of the Editors Guild, led his delegation. Other members included BSS Managing Director and Chief Editor Abul Kalam

Journal Editor Shahjahan Sardar, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta, Bangladesh Protidin Editor Naem Nizam, Global TV Editorin-Chief Syed Ishtiaque Reza, and editorial board Chairman of The Asian Age Shoaib Chowdhurv.

in-Chief Manzurul Islam,

Daily Jugantor Editor

Saiful Alam. Bangladesh

To-Let

Please contact: 01611853603 01911324322, 01711868475

ground floor of Sundarban Hotel at western side of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel will be rented out. Suitable for Bank and other financial institutions.

Space measuring 4500 sft. on the

Date: 03/01/2024

#### Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

#### for "Consultancy Services for Design, Monitoring, Supervision & Reporting" (Firm) (National)

- 1. The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) under the Ministry of Local Government Division, has been allocated public funds from the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the "Flood Reconstruction Emergency Assistance Project for Water Supply and Sanitation (GoB-ADB)", damaged by Flood 2022. A portion of the loan is intended to be used for payments under the Consultancy Services for which this Request for the Expression of Interest (REOI) is being issued.
- 2. The overall objective of the project is the reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood damaged Water Supply and Sanitation infrastructures of flood affected areas of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Netrokona, and Kishoreganj districts. Different types of water supply and sanitation infrastructures like Deep Tubewells with double platform, Deep Tubewells with Submersible pump, Centralized septic tank system, Mini water Supply with Treatment Plant, Construction of Public Toilet, Supply of Truck Mounted mobile water treatment plant, Supply of Mobile Toilet, Water Carrier, Construction of Shade for flood related materials, Supply of Life Jacket-Rain Coat etc. will be constructed or supplied to the concerned districts under this project.
- 3. The main scope of the assignment is to support the Project Management Unit (PMU), Project Implementation Units (PIUs) (Six districts level officials) of DPHE in preparation of design, drawing and specifications along with preparation of bidding documents, construction supervision, financial reports, financial analysis, preparation of project auditing report, review of existing feasibility studies/ reports and plans including field visits for water supply treatment plant, innovative integrated sanitation, Shade/ Store construction for treatment plant & flood material/equips storage in 6 flood affected districts to assess the viability of investments in terms of the technical, financial and social aspects in the selected sites. The firm will have to prepare detailed engineering design, construction drawings specification of the Centralized septic tank, Mini Water Supply with Treatment Plant, Shade/ Store construction for treatment plant & flood material/equips storage, public toilet for 6 flood affected districts that will cover details of on-site preparatory tasks, layout facilities, simple architectural and landscape designs for water treatment plants/retaining structures/pipeline network, foundation and structural works, mechanical works, installation of different equipment and electrical works including instrumentation, trial running and control system. Moreover, the firm have to prepare the financial audit report of the project regularly. To materialize these activities a consulting firm will be engaged for Design, Monitoring, Supervision & Reporting under this project. The team will be headed by a Team Leader supported by other key and non-key experts. The tenure of the consulting Services will be 24 calendar months from the commencement date.
- 4. Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) now invites national eligible consulting firms to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for providing the required services.
- The consulting firm(s) should be nationally reputed and may associate with other firms to enhance their 5. qualifications. No firm should form more than one association or joint venture (JV). If a firm submits more than one EOI forming more than one JV/association, all EOIs submitted by forming JV/association with that firm and also EOI submitted by that firm will be rejected.

Health Engineering (DPHE) based on the complete information submitted in the Standard EOI form by the intending Consulting Firms through the CMS (Consultant Management System) as mentioned in sl. 7. Intending Consulting Firms shall have, but not limited to the following competences:

a) Management competence: Firm's management and organizational strength, financial strength, number and capabilities of permanent employees and key staff, etc.

b) Technical Competence:

- i. Firm's specialization compared with the sectoral focus of the assignment;
- ii. Firm's specific experience in design, construction supervision particularly in the field of Water Supply, Sanitation sector with comparable scale and technical complexity;
- iii. Firm's experience in supervision consultancy in projects funded by Multilateral Development Banks-MDBs (i.e., ADB, WB etc.).

c) Geographic Competence: Experience in similar geographic area (i.e. country experience, regional experience).

- Interested consulting firm(s) are requested to submit the Expression of Interest (EOI) electronically, using 7. standard EOI template available through ADB website (CMS) by 11:59 PM (Manila Local Time) and by 09:59 PM (Dhaka Local Time) on or before 05 February, 2024 through the link of http://csrn.adb.org [Project Name: Flood Reconstruction Emergency Assistance Project (FREAP), Package Name: Consultancy Services for Design, Monitoring, Supervision & Reporting, Package Number: S-1 [ADB package no. DPHE/ S-1] of Consultant Management System of ADB.
- 8. Only EOIs submitted electronically through ADB website using ADB template will be allowed and evaluated. EOI submitted using other than ADB templates will not be evaluated. Any offline or manual EOI submission is not permissible and will not be considered.
- 9. Only the shortlisted firms will be invited to submit Request for Proposal (RFP) for Technical & Financial Proposals to be submitted later on. However, a shortlisted consulting firm will not be allowed to submit more than one proposal. If it is found that a shortlisted consulting firm submits more than one proposal as single firm or by forming JV/association with other shortlisted firms, all proposals involving that firm and also proposal submitted individually by that firm, will be rejected. Moreover, shortlisted firms will not be allowed to form JV/association with firms not shortlisted by Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) of DPHE.
- Under no circumstances will ADB or DPHE, be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in 10. connection with the preparation or submission of the EOI. Interested consulting firm(s) is/are requested to submit relevant documentary evidences in support of their competence in EOI submission.
- 11. Interested consulting firm(s) may obtain further information including Scope of Works and Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Consultant Management System on the ADB website at http://csrn.adb.org or from the office of the undersigned during regular office hours on all working days before deadline of submission. The EOI notice will also be available at the following websites www.dphe.gov.bd and www.cptu.gov.bd.
- 12. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.

Ascert. 6/3/2028 (Areef Anowar Khan) Project Director E-mail: pdfreap.dphe@gmail.com