

Tony Blair congratulates Sheikh Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Former prime minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair has congratulated Sheikh Hasina for her reelection as the prime minister of Bangladesh.

In a greeting letter, he said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on leading the Awami League to victory, securing a fourth consecutive term as the prime minister of Bangladesh."

Blair, executive chairman of Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, said, "As you embark on your next term, I am confident that Bangladesh will continue to thrive, achieving new milestones and setting global benchmarks for good governance."

Dhaka grapples with 'unhealthy' air amid cold

UNB, Dhaka

As a mild cold wave is sweeping across the country, Dhaka's air quality has been marked "unhealthy".

With an air quality index (AQI) score of 175 at 9:29am yesterday, Dhaka ranked 5th on the list of cities worldwide with the worst air quality.

India's Delhi and Kolkata and Pakistan's Karachi and Lahore occupied the first four spots, with AQI scores of 243, 212, 212 and 195 respectively.

An AQI between 151 and 200 is considered "unhealthy" while between 201-300 is "very unhealthy", and 301-400 is "hazardous", posing severe health risks to residents.

The AQI, an index for reporting daily air quality, informs people how clean or polluted the air of a certain city is and what associated health effects might be a concern for them.

The AQI in Bangladesh is based on five pollutants: particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), NO2, CO, SO2, and ozone.

Dhaka has long been grappling with air pollution issues. Its air quality usually turns unhealthy in winter and improves during the monsoon.

As per World Health Organization, air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year, mainly due to increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and acute respiratory infections.

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 18

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:40	7:00
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:44	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Farmers trying to protect boro seedlings by covering the seedbeds with polythene sheets in Jashore. Dense fog amid winter has caused considerable damage to boro paddy seedbeds in different areas across the region.

Dense fog damages boro seedbeds

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Dense fog amid winter has caused considerable damage to boro paddy seedbeds in different areas across Jashore region.

Seedlings were seen fading and turning yellow-reddish in colour, and eventually dying. In some places, seedlings did not germinate in the seed beds.

Farmers were seen desperately trying to protect the seedlings by covering the seedbeds with polythene, sprinkling ash, and spraying medicine in some places.

They expressed concern that the seedlings would be completely damaged before those could be

planted to crop fields.

The sun has not been visible amid the severe cold since Friday. The average temperature in Jashore was 10.8 degrees Celsius from Sunday, according to the meteorological office in Jashore.

"Due to dense fog in the last few days, my paddy seedlings are turning yellow. I have been trying to protect those with polythene sheets. If the situation persists, the seedlings will be damaged in the seed beds," said A Rahman, a farmer in Jashore Sadar upazila.

"If the fog remains intense and the temperature falls below 10 degrees in winter, the paddy seedlings are affected. The

temperature in Jashore is above 10 degrees at the moment," said Sushant Kumar Tarafdar, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Jashore.

In order to protect the seeds planted using conventional method, the DAE official recommended to drain water from the fields during daytime and cover seed beds with polythene until the sun rises, while irrigating the lands at night.

The DAE has a target of cultivating boro paddy on 1,60,500 hectares of land in Jashore this year, including Ufshi variety on 1,30,000 hectares and hybrid varieties on 30,500 hectares.

Farmers find it tough to cope with cold spell



S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Dense fog and low temperatures are disrupting agricultural work across the northern districts of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat as a cold wave persists in the region.

The shivering cold is making it extremely difficult for farmers and agricultural workers to continue working in the fields for a long time.

However, for the sake of livelihood, many are being compelled to work, defying the cold.

The situation is particularly worse in the char (shoal) areas along the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla, Dudhkumar, and Gangadhar rivers.

The minimum daytime temperature in the region has been fluctuating between 11 and 12 degrees Celsius for the past few days, said Subal Chandra Sarkar, in-charge of Rajarhat Agricultural Meteorological Observatory in Kurigram.

"The chilling cold is disrupting our work. But we have to grow our crops

anyway, so we are working amid the cold and fog. After working in the field for a while, we light up straws to build a fire and get some warmth before starting work again," said Dhiren Chandra Barman, 60, of Bishbari village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"Due to the cold, I am unable to work in the farmland. At the same time, agricultural workers are also not much available, as many are reluctant to work in this harsh weather," said Nazir Hossain, 65, a farmer in Shimulbari village under Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

"Earlier, we would work on daily wages. But now, due to the cold weather, we are working on contract," said Altaf Hossain, 50, a farm labourer in the same village.

Hamidur Rahman, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension in Lalmonirhat, expressed concern that if the cold wave continues longer, it might cause significant damage to the crops.

Submit probe findings by February 8

HC asks ACC on Murshedy's Gulshan house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit the findings of the probe into the issues regarding Awami League lawmaker Abdus Salam Murshedy's Gulshan house before this court by February 8.

The ACC has been asked to submit the updates, including the documents found by the commission's inquiry officials, through an affidavit to the HC.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth Hossain passed the order during the hearing of a petition filed in 2022 by Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman.

After the HC passed the order yesterday, Barrister Suman told reporters at the SC that the ACC lawyers say that the commission does not bow to anyone.

"But I think the Anti-Corruption Commission is silent about Abdus Salam Murshedy," he said.

RMG factory closed over workers' agitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Authorities of a ready-made garment factory in Savar declared it indefinitely closed yesterday morning following workers' agitation over alleged dismissal of their fellows.

More than 500 workers of Anlima Textile Limited located in Ulail area next to the Dhaka-Aricha highway staged a protest inside the factory on Tuesday, alleging that the authorities have been dismissing workers unjustly for the last few months.

But the protesters could not give the

exact number of workers dismissed by the authorities so far.

Factory Assistant Vice President (HR Admin) Razaul Kaiuom told The Daily Star that it would not be possible to run the factory if the working environment did not return to normal.

He said workers beat up the factory's General Manager Golam Kibria badly and he was taken to a hospital in the capital as his condition is critical.

He also said the workers have been resigning voluntarily as there were not

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কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
কোটবাড়ী, কুমিল্লা-৩৫০৬
ফোন নং: ০২০৪৪১১৪৪

Invitation for Tendered (Goods)

Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender Publication (Date & Time)	Tender closing & Opening (date & time)
936817	Supply and Installation of Desktop Computer and Laptop for Comilla University	16-Jan-2024 16:00:00	31-Jan-2024 11:45:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches within the mentioned time in tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Signed/-
(Mohammad Nasir Uddin)
Senior Programmer
Comilla University, Cumilla.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Netrokona
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No.-46.02.7200.0000.99.2024-161
Date: 16-01-2024

e-Tender Notice No: 38/2023-2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works details in table:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. and Name of Scheme	Last selling date & time	Closing & Opening date & time	Procurement Method
1	929498 (2nd Call)	A) Rehabilitation of Brojer Bazar GC - Dhalla Bazar GC Road at ch. 00-5375m under Alpara Upazila, Dist.-Netrokona [ID No-372042006] (Salvage Material Cost: 10,32,850.00) B) Rehabilitation of Chirang UP Office - Miah Hossain Bazar Road at ch. 2850-7800m under Kendua Upazila, Dist.-Netrokona [ID No-372473008] (Salvage Material Cost: 10,06,291.00) C) Rehabilitation of Kallara (Gragrati) UPC -Shidly GC via Dhamrholia Bazar Road at ch. 00-3773m under Sadar Upazila, Dist.-Netrokona [ID No-372743011] (Salvage Material Cost: 8,13,100.00) D) Environmental Management Plan (EMP) under Alpara, Kendua & Netrokona Sadar Upazila, Dist.- Netrokona. Package No. GEDW-1A / Netrokona-1	01-02-2024 12:00	01-02-2024 15:00	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Rabul Islam)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Netrokona.
Phone: 02996651300
E-mail: xen.netrokona@lged.gov.bd

বাংলাদেশ স্যাটেলাইট কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
(রাষ্ট্রীয় মালিকানাধীন একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
১৬ ককী নজরুল ইসলাম স্মার্টসিটি, ঢাকা-১০০০
www.bscl.gov.bd

Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Services

1. Ministry/Division	Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
2. Agency	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited
3. Procuring entity name	Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman and CEO
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm (National) (Time-Based)
7. Title of service	Procurement of Post deployment support services of TRP devices
8. EOI Ref No.	14.39.0000.012.07.004.22-9(M)
9. Date	17/01/2024

KEY INFORMATION

10. Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

11. Budget and source of funds	Own funds
11. Development partner (if applicable)	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/programme code	N/A
13. EOI closing date and time	01 February 2024 12:05pm
14. Publication date	18 January 2024

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

15. **Brief Description of the Assignment:**
BSCL has deployed 500 Audience End Devices/ Television Rating Point (TRP) devices in the whole country. Under the terms and conditions set by BSCL, the tenderer must provide post-deployment support services per device throughout Bangladesh.

Objectives of the assignment:
To support post-deployment services for TRP devices for 18 months in 2 areas-
Area-1: Dhaka division: 230 Audience End Devices/ Television Rating Point (TRP) devices
Area-2: Rest of the divisions: 270 Audience End Devices/ Television Rating Point (TRP) devices

16. **Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required:**
EOI should include the following information:
a) The tenderer must have experience of conducting surveys at least 5000 household over the last 5 years all over Bangladesh.
b) The tenderer must have experience of designing methodology (sampling techniques, sample size determination, sample allocation, data analysis plan) of at least 2 studies over the last 5 years.
c) The data collector panels of the tenderer need to have a minimum of 03 (three) years of expertise in field-level data collection.
d) The management panel must have at least one member with educational backgrounds in statistics.
e) Up-to-date valid trade license, TIN, BIN certificate must be submitted.

17. **Other Details (if applicable):**
i) Short listing will be made in accordance with the 'Rule-115 of Public Procurement Rule (PPR)-2008'
ii) EOI as well as attached forms/supporting documents shall be written in English.
iii) **The Detailed Scope of services will be found at <http://www.bscl.gov.bd> (under tender notice) along with EOI notice.**
iv) Two (2) signed copies of EOI along with 1 (one) original shall be submitted in a sealed envelope mentioning 'Procurement of Post deployment support services of TRP devices' on top of the sealed envelope and shall be submitted to the following address before above-mentioned date and time.
v) EOIs submitted by Consulting Firm will be screened and Consulting Firm will be shortlisted. Only short-listed Consulting Firm will be invited to submit proposals. Interested applicants may obtain further information from the office mentioned below during the office hours (9:00 to 16:00 hours BST)

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

18. Name of the official inviting EOI	Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood
19. Designation of the official inviting EOI	Chairman and CEO, Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL)
20. Address of the official inviting EOI	116, SEL Rose-N-Dale, 7th & 8th floor, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000
21. Contact details of the official inviting EOI	Phone: +88 02 41030091-92 E-mail: procurement@bscl.com.bd ; info@bscl.com.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all EOIs.

(signed)
Rehnuma Tarannum
Manager, Procurement (Additional Charge)
Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited

edcl এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮

"দরপত্র বিক্রয়"

ইউসিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত স্থানীয় প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত) নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করছে:-

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	আনুমানিক	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারতথ্যগা)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
০১	ইউসিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/২১ তারিখ: ১৭/০১/২০২৪ইং	০৬ (ছয়) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড বক্স {06 (Six) kinds of Printed Box} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	৪,১০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতি সেট	২৯/০১/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	২৯/০১/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা
০২	ইউসিসিএল/ক্রয়/স্থানীয়/দরপত্র/২০২৪/২২ তারিখ: ১৭/০১/২০২৪ইং	০১ (এক) প্রকার প্রিন্টেড ইনার বক্স {01 (One) kinds of Printed Inner Box} (সিডিউল মোতাবেক)	১,০০,০০০ পিস	২.৫%	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ প্রতি সেট	২৯/০১/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা	২৯/০১/২০২৪ ইং বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকা

সকল কার্যবিবেসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই। দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষে: ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক