

## DUAL MASTER'S PROGRAMME BuEt, Irish univ sign MoA

STAR REPORT

University of Limerick (UL), Ireland and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt) have signed a joint Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to start a dual master's programme.

Prof Nigel Healey, vice president (global and community engagement) of UL, and Prof Satya Prasad Majumder, vice chancellor of BuEt, signed the agreement recently.

"BuEt has a very strict admission policy to admit the top talents from Bangladesh. These students need formal conduits of higher education. UL, with its industry network located in Ireland, offers top-ranked graduate training and skill development through its world-class educational facility, and world leading research in advanced technology," said Prof Majumder, a renowned expert and leading academic in the field of fibre-optic communication.

Both Bangladesh and Ireland have seen positive economic growth and technological developments in the last two decades. Their relationship deepened following a St Patrick's Day visit this year by Simon Coveney TD, minister for enterprise, trade and employment of Ireland.



## Local vermicelli makers gear up for Eid



FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

With Eid-ul-Fitr knocking at the door, vermicelli (semai in Bangla) makers in Chattogram city are having a busy time.

Vermicelli is a widely popular dessert item, served commonly consumed by people from all walks of life on Eid day.

There are two types of vermicelli - regular and laccha. Regular vermicelli is produced using flour and water, while laccha is produced with oil or ghee, flour, sugar and water.

Vermicelli traders in the port city of Chaktai, Rajakhali and Chawkbar areas said their profits have been curtailed due to high prices of flour, gas and electricity, alongside extra payment to the workers, putting the traditional profession at risk.

Visiting Rajakhali area, this correspondent saw workers at several factories drying vermicelli on rooftops.

"Vermicelli business has become more challenging as big companies are also producing item while prices of ingredients are on the rise sharply. We mainly target lower-income people

in the port city and upazilas," said Md Akbar Hossain, owner of a factory.

"So far we sold 2,500 buckets of vermicelli, each weighing 35 kilogrammes, which is a lower quantity compared to previous years," he added.

SM Harunor Rashid, a leader of Chaktai Industries and Traders Association, said there are around 10-15 vermicelli factories located in Chaktai-Rajakhali-Khatunganj areas where around 10,000 to 15,000 buckets of vermicelli used to be produced every Ramadan, with the demand increasing sharply two or three days ahead of Eid.

Meanwhile, a section of unscrupulous businessmen in the port city are busy manufacturing sub-standard vermicelli, using unrefined palm oil, animal fat, and even toxic chemicals and colours, to cash on its high demand ahead of Eid, he alleged.

While all factory owners have been asked to maintain healthy conditions and using proper ingredients to produce the food item at the factories, it is difficult to monitor everyone, Harun added.

## Don't try

FROM PAGE 3

Pointing figure to BNP, Quader said as long as Tariq Rahman remains at the helm of BNP, it will not go in the right direction.

He asked Tarique to come back to do politics. "If you have courage, come home and do politics. Have the courage to go to jail. The people will not respond to your call from London," Quader added.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss organisational issues and celebration of Mujibnagar Day on April 17.

Earlier, Quader, at a discussion marking the 104th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, emphasised improving overall healthcare in rural areas.

The AL spokesperson said the hospitals in rural areas seem like "stables for horses."

"Hospitals shouldn't be like stables. There are doctors, but no medicine in many areas. Emergency facilities like ICU should be available at the upazila level," Quader said.

He said the poor state of hospitals was exposed during the pandemic and stressed the need to prioritise the Ministry of Health among all the ministries.

## DNCC to buy

FROM PAGE 3

ward councillors, to raise dengue awareness."

The initiative includes view-exchange meetings and rallies involving local dignitaries, politicians, imams, teachers, and students to educate on dengue prevention, he said.

## Teacher or torturer?

FROM PAGE 3

family. The sudden sickness of my son has become a burden due to the medical expenses"

"Already, I have spent over Tk 20,000 for admission and other medical bills in the last two weeks across three hospitals. Still, the treatment cost continues to rise," he added.

He also said he would not file any case, however, there is no scope for the madrasa authority to avoid responsibility.

Aminul Islam, secretary of the madrasa, said, "Saddam was working here for the last year. We issued a show-cause notice asking why he beat Rakib."

"But Saddam fled as locals protested his activities. His cell phone was also found switched off," he added.

Asked about

Atiqul said it is important to raise awareness among the people regarding dengue, adding that "Water cannot be allowed to accumulate on the roof, balcony, abandoned tyres, coconut shells, earthenware pots, food packets, or unused commodes."

compensation, Aminul said the teacher paid Tk 9,000 before going into hiding.

"We also provided some money on the institution's behalf and may provide more if needed," he shared.

## 30 private

FROM PAGE 3

admitting new students since January 1, 2023, due to its failure to relocate to a permanent campus.

UGC urged students to exercise extreme caution when choosing a private university.

It advised them to consider only universities with UGC-approved campuses, programmes, and enrolment quotas.

UGC also said it would not be held responsible if students were misled by unapproved institutions.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

### Vacancy Announcement

**Closing date: 24 April 2024**

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified national candidates to the following vacant position. The incumbent will be recruited as Fixed Term National Professional Officer:

- Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)

To apply, visit the recruitment website at [Jobs at FAO](#) and complete your online profile. Ensure your profile has all the details as outlined in TALEO profile steps. Only applications received through online will be considered.

All recruitment to FAO posts is made through a competitive and transparent process. Candidates are encouraged to follow the instructions given to the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate the recruitment process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported to FAO immediately.

**Qualified female candidates and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.**

## Allow us to practise

FROM PAGE 3

one of us are facing such threats," the statement reads.

"Proof of these threats has been submitted to the university administration. We want help from the Prime Minister in this regard. We [students of all faiths] want a normal and safe campus. We want freedom of expression. We don't want our campus

to become a hub for terrorists," it added.

Earlier, during a press conference last Tuesday, many BuEt students appealed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for a campus free from student politics.

In an open letter, they said that the environment of BuEt without student politics is most safe and education-friendly.

## Passenger launches

FROM PAGE 5

including Baushia-Nalbunia channel, Kirtankhola near Shaistabad in Barishal, estuary of Arial Khan river, between Hijla and Babuganj, and from Ulania to Sheora in Mehdinganj, among others, where the launch operation has been closed for a long time due to lack of navigability.

"There are shallow waters in at least six places between Barishal and Chandpur alone. As a result, these places cannot be navigated by the vessels without tide," said Zakir Hossain, manager of MV Sundarban Navigation Company, confirming the matter.

Excavation of river at different points on the route will solve the problem, said Abdur Razzak Miah,

supervising engineer at BIWTA Dredger Base in Barishal.

However, Saidur Rahman disagreed.

"Even though the BIWTA dredges at some places on this route every year, they dump the river sand back in the river, eventually forming shoals underwater. As such, we do not reap any benefit from the dredging," he said.

## RMG workers

FROM PAGE 5

Islam said that after initially dispersing the protesters, a meeting was held involving workers, labour leaders, and factory authorities.

"Factory authorities assured disbursement of all salaries and bonuses on April 8," he said, adding that additional police personnel were deployed to prevent any disturbances.

Despite repeated attempts, factory's managing director, Abu Bakar Siddique Khan, could not be contacted over phone.

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## OBITUARY



Eminent industrialist and social worker of Monipuripara, Dhaka **Mr. Nazmul Karim (73)** passed away on 03/04/2024 (Innalillah Rajeun). His Janaza and Burial will take place after Jumma prayers today, Friday at Banani Kabarrsthan. On behalf of the family, all friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the funeral and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

## TENDER NOTICE

A Tender is invited from reputed vendors from Bangladesh for Wall Paneling at Maitree Project, Rampal Bangladesh.

Interested bidders may download the tender from <https://www.bhel.com/tenders> (Tender NIT Number : NIT\_81349 and Tender Notification Number : Ref. BHEL: MSTPP: CIV: INTE-RIOR: 24:03:02, dated 04.04.24).

### Addendum Notice

Date: April 04, 2024

Tender title: **Procurement of Security Services (Re-tender)**  
Invitation Ref. No. & Date: icddr,b/SCM/GoB/OTM/Pkg#PS-10/2023-24,  
Dated: 21-03-24

Published in: The Daily "Prothom Alo" & "Daily Star" on March 22, 2024

Description	Previous Date	New Date
Last date of selling tender document	17-04-2024	28-04-2024
Last date for tender submission	17-04-2024	29-04-2024

All other information, Terms & Conditions in the said tender notice and tender document will remain unchanged except decision made in the pre-bid meeting minutes. Please visit Minutes of Pre-bid Meeting through <https://www.icddr.org/work-with-us/tender-notices>

Senior Manager, Supply Chain Management  
Tel: 02-222277001-10, 16340 Ext. 4405/4400

**World Food Programme**

### Expression of Interest (EOI)

#### Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Cox's Bazar

Ref. WFP/BDCO/EOI/24/001

In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, WFP assists displaced Rohingyas through retail. The payment modality is via WFP Food Assistance Cards. With these cards, beneficiaries receive an entitlement that they can use to purchase a variety of perishable and non-perishable food and non-food items (from the WFP-established Electronic-Voucher outlets).

WFP invites experienced and potential local food retailers/wholesalers to submit an Expression of Interest for the implementation of food assistance to displaced Rohingyas through Value Voucher (E-voucher) in Cox's Bazar.

**Retail partners will be responsible for:**

- Procurement of food (and some non-food items). WFP contracted retailers will be encouraged to procure fresh and perishable items from local producers in the Cox's Bazar district to support the local economy.
- Implementation of a full logistics plan to transport the commodities to the Cox's Bazar district (Ukhya & Teknaf)
- Running the distribution points (Electronic voucher shops) in line with the humanitarian principles/code of conduct. Strict food quality and safety standards must be implemented and maintained at all stages of the supply chain.

Interested and reputable organizations working in the food retail/wholesale business sector, who have the supply chain capacity to provide the services mentioned above, are kindly requested to submit their Expression of Interest to the email address: [ban.nfprocurement@wfp.org](mailto:ban.nfprocurement@wfp.org) by the mentioned deadline.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Legal registration, Trade License, VAT, or can acquire all required legal licenses needed for companies to trade in Bangladesh. (Relevant documents to be submitted.)
- Company with a minimum of three years' experience as an established business; (retail business experience is preferred) with a good understanding of the supply chain of the food commodity market in Bangladesh. Appropriate documentation (copy of Contract /Work order) to substantiate the vendor have minimum 03 (three) years of experience in similar type of works.
- Bank Statement of company for last two years.
- Ability to accept WFP payment T&C. Payment is every 15 days, twice in a month.
- Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and/or store maintenance.
- Ability to provide store operations manuals (including back office, logistics, etc.) in the required language.
- Ability to meet food quality standards and WFP's monitoring and inspection requirements.
- Readiness to allocate staff to outlet locations as per the demand of operation.
- Willingness to improve service quality by learning and applying data analytics for running the retail business efficiently, maintaining uninterrupted food supply, delivering hi high-quality service whilst maintaining cleanliness and hygiene levels.
- Ability and willingness to procure locally produced fresh food (vegetables, eggs, chicken, live fish etc.) from the local farmers.
- Ability to adhere to WFP's humanitarian principles and standards, including no discrimination against beneficiaries, and data protection requirements.

**Deadline for submission: 25 April 2024 at 16:00 hrs Dhaka Time**

**brac**

### Career Opportunity

BRAC is an international development organisation founded in Bangladesh that partners with over 100 million people living with inequality and poverty globally to create sustainable opportunities to realise potential.

USAID funded "Community-led Climate Smart Innovations to Address Climate Change Impacts (UDDOM)" project awarded on March 2024 and expected to run for 5 years. UDDOM project aims to empower climate-vulnerable communities in Bagerhat, Sunamganj, and Jamalpur districts of Bangladesh to cope with and mitigate the impacts of climate change-induced disasters. By focusing on strengthening local government institutions and providing access to financial resources, crop insurance, and climate-smart agricultural practices, the project seeks to enhance the resilience of both communities and local governance structures. Through initiatives such as "Adaptation Clinics" for climate-smart agriculture, the provision of financial services, and the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure including water facilities and housing, UDDOM integrates proven adaptive solutions with locally developed strategies. Additionally, the project endeavors to improve early warning systems and facilitate early action to better prepare communities for future climate-induced disasters. Over a span of 60 months, UDDOM aims to foster sustainable development and resilience in the face of increasingly frequent and severe climate-related challenges.

BRAC is looking for suitable candidate for the following contractual positions for UDDOM project under Climate Change Programme (CCP):

- Lead, MEAL
- Senior Specialist, Grants Management and Donor Reporting
- Specialist, Gender
- Specialist, Shelter
- Finance and Admin Manager
- Project Coordinator

**Job Location** : BRAC Head Office and Field Office  
**Application Deadline** : 15 April 2024

For detail job description and application instruction please visit: [careers.brac.net](https://careers.brac.net)

BRAC believes that everyone we work with including our staff, programme participants, partners, and the communities have the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, harassment, and exploitation including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). We uphold human dignity and inclusion for all, regardless of age, race, religion, gender, disability, ethnic origin, or socio-economic condition. As an equal opportunity employer, we actively encourage applications from gender-diverse individuals and people with disabilities.

Selected candidates will have to go through a rigorous reference and background checking process which may include police verification.

**World Food Programme**

### Expression of Interest (EOI)

#### Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Bhasan Char

Ref. WFP/BDCO/EOI/24/002

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been providing food assistance through Value Vouchers (E-voucher) to the Rohingyas via retail in Bhasan Char Island in the Noakhali district of Bangladesh. The payment modality is via WFP Food Assistance Cards. With these cards, beneficiaries receive an entitlement that they can use to purchase a variety of perishable and non-perishable food and non-food items from the WFP-established Electronic-Voucher outlets.

WFP invites experienced and potential local food retailer/wholesaler to submit an Expression of Interest for the implementation of food assistance to displaced Rohingyas through Value Voucher (E-voucher) in Bhasan Char Island.

**Retail partners will be responsible for:**

- Procurement of food (and some non-food items). WFP contracted retailers will be encouraged to procure fresh and perishable items from local producers in the Bhasan Char Island and other neighboring areas in Bangladesh.
- Implementation of a full logistics plan to transport the commodities to the Bhasan Char (Noakhali District)
- Running the distribution points (Electronic voucher shops) in line with the humanitarian principles/code of conduct. Strict food quality and safety standards must be implemented and maintained at all stages of the supply chain.

Interested and reputable organizations working in the food retail/wholesale business sector, who have the supply chain capacity to provide the services mentioned above, are kindly requested to submit their Expression of Interest to the email address: [ban.nfprocurement@wfp.org](mailto:ban.nfprocurement@wfp.org) by the mentioned deadline.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- Legal registration, Trade License, VAT, or can acquire all required legal licenses needed for companies to trade in Bangladesh. (Relevant documents to be submitted.)
- Company with a minimum of three years' experience as an established business; (retail business experience is preferred) with a good understanding of the supply chain of the food commodity market in Bangladesh. Appropriate documentation (copy of Contract /Work order) to substantiate the vendor have minimum 03 (three) years of experience in similar type of works.
- Bank Statement of company for last two years.
- Ability to accept WFP payment T&C. Payment is every 15 days, twice in a month.
- Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and/or store maintenance.
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BRAC is looking for suitable candidate for the following contractual position for UDDOM project under Climate Change Programme (CCP):

- Chief of Party (COP)

**Job Location** : BRAC Head Office  
**Application Deadline** : 15 April 2024

For detail job description and application instruction please visit: [careers.brac.net](https://careers.brac.net)

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