43 years

FROM PAGE 3

the Paralysed (CRP) in 1979, which eventually expanded to a 100-bed hospital in Savar.

CRP serves 15,000 outpatients annually, offering rehabilitation, schooling, and vocational training. Valerie also established the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute to train medical personnel.

Valerie's dedication earned her a Bangladeshi citizenship in 1998 and many awards in Bangladesh and abroad. She received the highest state award -- Bangladesh Independence Award in 2004 -- for her contributions to the disabled persons.

During the exhibition's inauguration, Taylor expressed admiration for the initiative, noting its remarkable effort to unite artists with disabilities and integrate them into the mainstream. She emphasised the importance of such events in enabling individuals with disabilities to thrive through artistic expression.

Later, a policy discussion was held where Taylor, Festival Director and President of Dhaka Theatre Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu and Founder and CEO of IID Sayeed Ahamed, spoke, among others.

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 27

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-20	12-45	4-45	6-29	8-00
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-00	6-34	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

প্লট বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিকে এম-ব্লকে ২০ কাঠা রেডী ও ৪ কাঠার প্লট জরুরী ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয় হবে। প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন।
মোবাইল:০১৯৭৭৭৭৩৭৯৯

Ease visa conditions for workers

State minister urges UK govt

UNB, *Dhaka*

State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Shofiqur Rahman Choudhury has called upon the UK government to ease visa conditions for Bangladeshi workers who want to work in hospitality and catering sectors.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a dialogue on Bangladesh hosted by the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Thursday.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem, Bob Blackman MP, and APPG vice-chair Lord Karan Bilimoria spoke at the event.

APPG on Bangladesh Chair Rushanara Ali MP chaired the dialogue.

The state minister highlighted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led government's ongoing efforts to improve the well-being and welfare of Bangladeshis living around the world, including those in the UK.

He also noted that bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the UK have reached new heights in the last 15 years due. However, he said there are still many areas to be explored to further broaden and deepen the long-standing historic relations.

The state minister hoped that the two governments would work together to create more job opportunities for Bangladeshi skilled workers, including restaurant workers, doctors, and nurses.

What Pakistan

FROM PAGE 3

Minister, made the remarks while addressing a press briefing organised at the AL president's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Calling on the BNP leaders to take real lessons from a recent speech made by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the AL general secretary said the Pakistani premier feels shame when he sees the progress and height of Bangladesh.

BNP usually makes propaganda, so there are a lot of real true lessons for BNP to take from the statement made by the Pakistani prime minister, he added.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lauded the economic development of Bangladesh in his address at a views exchange meeting with the representatives of the business community at the residence of the chief minister of Sindh province in Karachi on Thursday.

Withdraw restrictions

FROM PAGE 3

banking sector or is it an attempt to protect the interests of those who are responsible for the crises in this sector?" the statement said.

In recent years, most information about financial sector scandals has been published in the public interest, with the majority coming from media workers' open access to Bangladesh Bank, it added.

Iftekharuzzaman also questioned whether it should be assumed that the central bank is working to ensure the continued protection of the criminal circles involved in the irregularities in this sector.

Road accidents

FROM PAGE 5

In Birganj upazila, a teenage boy died on the spot and another young man was injured after a truck hit their bike in front of Jotsna Filling station on Dinajpur-Panchagarh highway around 7:00pm on Thursday.

The truck was heading to Dhaka from Thakurgaon, said Anwarul Islam, sub-inspector of Birganj Police Station.

The deceased is Tamim Islam, 13, son of Atiar Rahman of Birganj while the injured was Shakib Islam, 27.

Shakib is receiving treatment at Birganj Upazila Health Complex, added the police official.

Cuet to reopen

FROM PAGE 3

"We called a batch meeting tonight (Friday night) to discuss this matter," said Zobaer Ahmed, a third-year student of mechanical engineering department.

Earlier on Thursday, the university authorities announced to suspend all activities including classes and examinations for an indefinite period, and ordered students to vacate halls.

After the announcement, agitated students locked the vice chancellor's office and set fire to two buses which they had confiscated.

On the same night, the students suspended their protest upon assurances from the university authorities that their major demands would be met.

Has Chhatra Union lost its past

FROM PAGE 3

that the current divisions will be resolved soon.

But Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, a teacher at International Relations Department of DU, have a different point of view.

They said the entire society is currently affected by depoliticisation, leading talented students to lose interest in politics. Chhatra Union is also affected by this, they observed.

"Student politics is in its final decline. The range of thinking among student leaders is narrowing. The internal divisions are disheartening," Prof Serajul remarked.

Regarding the current Chhatra Union, Tanzimuddin Khan said, "The political philosophy this student body is supposed to practice is not being upheld, distancing it from its glorious history. The root cause of the crisis is the prevalence of individualistic interests over organisational ones."

Rageeb Nayeem, president of a faction of Chhatra Union, said, "Unity is the only option for leftists worldwide. Those who don't want a united leftist resistance are behind the current division of Chhatra Union."

When asked what the success of Chhatra Union has been in the last five years, he said, "There is no shortcut to success. Besides, what's the measurement of success?"

"We held nationwide protest rallies against rape in 2020, including a long march towards Noakhali, which garnered widespread support. The establishment of anti-sexual harassment cells on campuses stemmed from our 2015 movement. The successful 'Ducsu Chai' movement led to Ducsu polls after a 29-year hiatus."

"Our activism spans campuses across Bangladesh. We have members from both public and private universities, as well as from schools and colleges. We are committed to continuing our movement."

Dipok Sil, president of another faction of the Chhatra Union, claimed that the split within the student body is part of a larger conspiracy aimed at weakening the anti-government resistance.

"In the past few years, I have made several attempts to resolve the situation according to our constitution, but unfortunately, they have not been successful," he added.

He said Chhatra Union continues to play a major role in student movements when compared to other student bodies.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Workshop Division, Chattogram.
Tel: 031-724531
E-mail : eewchi@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No: 197 Date: 25-04.2024

Notice for e-GP Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of Goods/Works of RHD, Workshop Division, Chattogram (Tender ID No: **974923, 974924, 974925,**). 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.

25/04/24
(Md. Abdul Kader)
Sub-Assistant Engineer, RHD,
Workshop Division,
Chattogram.

(Sifat Afrin)
Executive Engineer, RHD,
Workshop Division,
Chattogram.

GD-672

AFD AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
DHAKA LINE TRANSFORMING TRAVEL

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

1.	Project Name	Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project.
2.	Procurement Entity	Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited (DBRTCL) represented by General Manager.
3.	Expression of Interest for	Selection of a Consulting Firm to perform the consultancy service for Operational Design and Business Model (ODBM) for Dhaka BRT Company Limited.
4.	EOI Ref. No.& Date	35.06.0000.010.07.002.24-316; Date: 25/04/20 24
5.	Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS), International Procurement Competition (IPC).
6.	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget; AFD- Agence Francaise De Developpement
7.	EOI Closing Date and Time	Date: 27/05/2024, Time: 15:00 hrs BST,
8.	EOI Opening Date, Time and Place	Date: 27/05/2024, Time: 15.00 hrs BST, Place: DBRTCL Conference Room, House# 04, Road# 21, Sector# 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.

9. **INTRODUCTION**
The People's Republic of Bangladesh has sought financial assistance from the Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") in the form of a multi-tranche facility towards the cost of the ambitious Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (DBRTCL Gazipur - Airport). This initiative is set to revolutionize public transportation in Dhaka by establishing an extensive BRT system designed to enhance the urban mobility and accessibility for its citizens.
The project envisions the construction and operationalization of a dedicated BRT corridor in Dhaka, aimed at providing a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the city's transportation challenges. It seeks to embody a model for efficient urban transport, marking a significant milestone as a pioneering BRT system within the nation. The proposed BRT infrastructure is planned to include state-of-the-art features such as a series of accessible stations, strategic pedestrian pathways, modernized vehicle depots, and an array of supportive urban amenities to ensure a seamless and user-friendly commuting experience.
In response to the complex demands of this project, the Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Ltd. (DBRTCL), the Implementing Agency, is calling for the expertise of globally recognized and proficient consultants.
The consultancy is envisioned to cover a crucial aspect of the project, called Operational Design and Business Model (ODBM). This technical assistance is designed to address the core components of strategic operational planning, business model refinement, and the facilitation of procurement processes. The objective is to expedite the project's roll-out, optimizing the BRT system's effectiveness from the onset and ensuring its sustainability and adaptability to Dhaka's evolving urban landscape.
DBRTCL seeks to engage with consulting firms that demonstrate an unparalleled depth of expertise and a proven track record in delivering high-impact urban transport solutions.
AFD has engaged a technical assistance (TA) team, provided by the consortium of Suez – Transamo – Safege, to support DBRTCL in the process. This technical assistance is now active, tasked with the preparation of tender documents for selecting the Vehicle Operator for the BRT system, the procurement of buses, and carrying out additional technical assistance duties.

10. **OBJECT OF THIS REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**
The present Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) is related to the Services of the ODBM consultancy mentioned above.
The ODBM consultant will bridge the existing gaps by undertaking a range of activities not addressed by the TA team, proceed with the previously mentioned tendering processes, and subsequently offer ongoing on-site technical support for a period of two years.
The scope of services sought is anticipated to encompass the following tasks. These tasks are described merely to give an indication to the Applicants to the ODBM about the content of the assignment, and will be described in further detail and precision in the corresponding Terms of Reference:
1. **Phase 1 Planning and Improvement:** Improve Phase 1 (expected to start shortly without ITS on a limited operational basis): Assist in vehicle operator contract monitoring, provide DBRTCL with daily advice for improvement, and define actionable strategies.
2. **Phase 2 Planning and Implementation:** Develop a detailed action plan with a timeline, conduct necessary surveys and data collection, analyze optimal technology for bus fleet motorization, and update the operation and financial plans to reduce operational subsidies.
3. **Procurement Process of ITS systems:** Facilitate ITS (Intelligence Transport Systems) procurement till system launch, Platform Screen Doors, Ticketing System, Passenger Information, Bus Tracking and Regulation, Security and Surveillance, etc. Define technical specifications, prepare evaluation criteria, analyze bids, assist in negotiations and the mobilization phase, and provide support during the first two years of service.
4. **BRT Infrastructure Improvements:** Identify the scope and design priority infrastructure improvements, draft bidding documents, assist in the bidding and contract negotiation process, conduct E&S due diligence, and supervise construction works.
5. **Depot design:** Design a new depot or extension of the existing depot, draft tender documents, assist during procurement, and supervise construction works.
6. **Optional Tranches for Additional Fleet:** Draft requirements and bidding documents for an additional BRT fleet, assist in procurement, supervise the production and testing phases of the new fleet.
7. **Operational Support and Capacity Building:** Support DBRTCL in the first 2 years of O&M, manage contract interfaces, monitor KPIs, and clear payments to service providers. Focus on last mile and first mile connectivity to enhance BRT accessibility and ridership. Conduct capacity building through organizational reviews, staffing support, policy development, intensive staff training, and facilitate knowledge exchange trips for DBRTCL management.
8. **Project management:** Establishing objectives, timelines, and milestones; promote efficient allocation of financial, human, and technological resources; risk identification and mitigation; implementing quality control measures; maintaining transparent communication with all stakeholders; overseeing the entire procurement process including tender drafting, contract negotiations, and management; tracking progress against milestones and key performance indicators; ensuring compliance with relevant regulations; managing changes in project scope, resources, or objectives agilely; and finally, ensuring successful project closure, fulfilling all contractual obligations, evaluating outcomes, and documenting lessons learned for future reference.
9. **Policy Development and Implementation:** Prepare and implement policies covering maintenance, safety, data privacy, health protocols, security measures, emergency responses, and passenger satisfaction.
10. **Strategic Development:** Develop a Bus Industry Restructuring Program to minimize competition between existing and future BRT services. Plan improvements in inter-modality between BRT and other mass transit systems and explore new BRT opportunities within the country

11. **DURATION OF THE MISSION**
Project Timeline: The duration of the services is projected to span forty-two (42) months. This includes an initial eighteen (18) months dedicated to studies and the tendering process, followed by twenty-four (24) months of ongoing technical support.

12. **CONSULTANT ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION**
I. This Request for Expressions of Interest is open to Consulting firms.
II. Eligibility criteria to AFD financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: www.afd.fr.
III. The Applicant shall submit only one application, either in its own name or as a member of a Joint Venture (JV). If an Applicant (including any JV member) submits or participates in more than one application, those applications shall be all rejected. However, the same subconsultant may participate in several applications.
IV. If the Applicant is a JV, the expression of interest shall include a copy of the JV Agreement entered into by all members or a letter of intent to execute a JV Agreement, signed by all members together with a copy of the Agreement proposal. In the absence of this document, the other members will be considered as Subconsultants.
V. Consulting firms who have previously engaged in the technical assistance (TA) phase of the project are ineligible to participate in this consultancy to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

13. **EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**
I. Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services.
II. Applicants must submit evidence of having successfully executed at least one project in the past five years that demonstrates the following capabilities, in the following order of priorities:
1. **Significant Urban Transport Project Experience:** Execution of an urban transport project consultancy contract valued at over €0.70 million or equivalent USD or BDT, showcasing the capacity to manage significant projects in this sector.
2. **BRT Operational Design and Implementation:** Completion of operational design for a high-capacity Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that has been successfully implemented for at least one year, reflecting expertise in BRT infrastructure projects.
3. **Technical Assistance for BRT Implementation:** Provision of technical assistance during the implementation phase of a BRT project currently operational, demonstrating hands-on experience in supporting BRT deployment.
4. **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Expertise:** Involvement in a project that included the drafting of ITS terms of reference for an urban transport project, indicating experience in integrating advanced transportation technologies.
5. **Developing Country Experience:** Successful completion of at least one project in developing countries, showing an understanding of and adaptability to the unique challenges these environments present.
6. **International Financial Institutions (IFI) Project Involvement:** Engagement in an infrastructure or transportation related project funded or supported by International Financial Institutions, highlighting the ability to comply with IFI standards and processes.
III. Among the submitted applications, a maximum of six (6) Applicants will be shortlisted, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.
IV. Should the number of applicants meeting the specified criteria exceed 6, the selection process will prioritize those with a higher number of references related to the first three criteria.
V. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. Experience and Qualification of other structural part of participating firms, whether parent or subsidiary firm, will not be considered for evaluation. Likewise, qualification and experience of the consulting firm associated as a sub-consultancy will not be considered for evaluation for shortlisting.

14. **OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TENDER**
I. Evaluation of Proposals: The assessment of proposals is anticipated to follow a split of 80% technical and 20% financial factors (alternatively, a 90% technical and 10% financial evaluation may be considered).
II. Tender Evaluation Criteria: Significant emphasis will be placed on possessing essential expertise in BRT projects, along with the technical contributions in methodology and approach that demonstrate the ability to lead the project to a successful outcome.
III. Contract Framework: The contract is primarily expected to be structured around lump sum payments for delivered outputs.

15. **Other Details**
i. Short listing will be made in accordance with the "Public Procurement Act 2006" as well as "AFD procurement guideline". Only short-listed firms will be invited to submit proposals.
ii. EOI and all supporting documents shall be written in English. Documents originally written in other than English should be translated into English and attached to the copy of original duly attested by competent authority.
iii. EOI must be delivered in 2 printed copies to the address mentioned below and a softcopy in USB drive on or before 15:00 hrs local time on 27/05/2025, Address: General Manager, Dhaka BRT Company Limited, House# 04, Road# 21, Sector# 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
iv. This REOI also available at DBRTCL website: www.dhakabrt.gov.bd, CPTU Website: www.cptu.gov.bd_and dg Market Website: afd.dgmarket.com.
v. Interested Applicants may obtain further information from the address below during office hours: 09.00 – 16.00. Deputy General Manager (Maintenance), Dhaka BRT Company Limited, House# 04, Road# 21, Sector# 04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230 or via email: dgmmaint.dbrtcl@gmail.com.
vi. Application should include the duly signed Statement of Integrity, Eligibility and Environmental and Social responsibility (to be found on the web version of this REOI at the DBRTCL website: www.dhakabrt.gov.bd CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd and afd.dgmarket.com).

16. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject one or all EOIs or stop the process of approval at any stage, at its sole discretion without assigning any reason thereof and shall not bear any liability whatsoever consequent upon such decision.

SD/-
Md. Mohiuddin
General Manager
Dhaka BRT Company Limited

GD-671