

Now govt can appoint administrator for UPs

Local govt amendment bill passed in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Local Government (Union Parishad) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed in Parliament yesterday, introducing a provision for appointing administrators to union parishads after the elected representatives' five-year tenure expires.

LGRD Minister M Tazul Islam presented the bill, which was passed by voice vote. The new legislation stipulates that the government can appoint administrators for up to 120 days after the end of a Union Parishad's tenure.

With the proposed change, no Union Parishad chairman can remain in office beyond their term on any pretext. The current loophole allowing chairmen to stay in office past their term will be eliminated.

The post of UP secretary has been changed to "UP Administrative Officer" under the new law.

Under the new legislation, a competent officer or person will be appointed as an administrator to perform a Union Parishad's functions until a newly-elected council is formed.

This measure is expected to curb the practice of delaying elections through litigation.

The bill emphasises the Union Parishad's role in managing village courts and maintaining law and order, aiming to expand the effectiveness of village court activities.

475 workplace deaths in last six months

Says Safety, Rights Society data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 475 workers died in 420 accidents at various workplaces across the country in the first six months of 2024.

Safety and Rights Society released the data yesterday after conducting a survey based on news published in 15 national and 11 local newspapers.

In the same period in 2023, around 389 workers died in 287 accidents.

SRS has found that the highest number of workers were killed in the transport sector.

Of the total number, 250 transport workers died in this period, 74 died in service establishments (such as workshops, gas, electricity supply establishments), 66 in agricultural sector, 52 in construction, and 33 died in factories and other manufacturing institutes.

SRS Executive Director Sekender Ali Mina said Bangladesh's production and employment depend on the informal sector, where labour laws are largely unenforced, making it challenging to control workplace accidents.

Supervision by relevant authorities must be increased to control workplace accidents, he added.



New roads put agriculture at stake

120 hectares of cropland being used for commercial purposes

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Mohammed Soheli, 37, of Golichipa Para in the North Halishahar area of Chattogram city, is planning to work as a transport worker as the four-acre land he used to cultivate as a sharecropper has been turned into a truck terminal and cold storage depot.

"The land owner rented out the land for the truck terminal and coal storage depot, thereby compelling me to look for an alternative livelihood," he told this correspondent recently.

Soheli is not alone. Over a hundred farmers, whose lives solely depended on agriculture, were forced to change their profession after at least 120 hectares of arable land were turned into transport terminals, cattle farms, and factories.

These lands, located in North Kattali, North Pahartali, South Kattali, Halishahar, and Patenga areas, used to be cultivated to produce different crops, including tomato and watermelon, according to the metropolitan agriculture office in Chattogram.

After the construction of two link roads in the region to enhance connectivity, there has been a boost to business activities in the region, which in turn has made agriculture no longer attractive to landowners.

The 12.5-kilometre Port Link Road connecting Faujdarhat and Halishahar, which opened in 2007, paved the way for this transition.



Later, the 15.5km Outer Ring Road, which opened in 2021, connecting Faujdarhat and Patenga, further boosted connectivity and depleted agricultural land.

This correspondent recently visited several points of the Outer Ring Road and observed that many commercial structures have been built on the east side of the road.

"Earlier, after every seasonal harvest, the markets used to be

flooded with an array of different crop varieties. But those days are no more," said Ataur Rahaman, 55, a vegetable vendor in Foillatoli Bazar under Halishahar area.

Jahangir Alam, a farmer from North Kattali, said, "Before these two roads were constructed, I used to earn my living by growing crops. Now, I am struggling to make ends meet after the agricultural lands were lost to commercial activities."

The six-acre land he used for cultivation now houses a workshop. At least 70 vehicles can be kept at the workshop at a time.

Elias Mistree, owner of the workshop, said, "After the road opened, most Chattogram Port-bound vehicles started using this road, which convinced me to set up the workshop here."

Any structure can be built on agricultural land after getting permission from the local ward councillor of Chattogram City Corporation.

"However, most of those using their arable land for commercial activities do not come to us for any

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CHT PEACE ACCORD

Govt not making progress in its implementation

Says PCJSS report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord has not been properly implemented yet, the situation in CHT has worsened and become very sensitive, said Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) in its half-yearly report yesterday.

Despite being in power for 16 years now, the Awami League government has not paced forward with the accord's implementation process, said the report, adding, "At present, the government has put the implementation process to a total halt."

On December 2, 1997, the then AL government and PCJSS signed the CHT peace accord to solve the CHT crisis through political and peaceful means.

On April 30 this year, in the ninth meeting of CHT Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee, it came up with evidential proof that the government did not undertake any initiative towards the implementation of the decisions adopted in the earlier meetings, the report also said.

From January to June this year, 107 incidents of rights violations were reported in CHT, while at least 5,448 Jumma people, including 5,000 men and women from the Bawm community, fell prey to human rights violations.

In such a way, the government has been turning the committee into a mere institution of nomenclature, it added.

The report further said the CHT has been experiencing human rights violations in various forms, such as suppression and oppression by administration and security forces, activities of armed terrorists, illegal land occupation, eviction and communal attacks, sexual harassment, violence, rape and killing, and development aggression.


From January to June this year, 107 incidents of rights violations were reported in CHT, while at least 5,448 Jumma people, including 5,000 men and women from the Bawm community, fell prey to human rights violations, it said.

The report said on April 23, a Rangamati court dismissed the case regarding the abduction of Kalpana Chakma.


After 28 years, the dismissal order of Kalpana Chakma's abduction case in the lower court has effectively granted impunity to the administration from its responsibility to uncover her whereabouts and the details of her kidnappers, the report added.

We do not have any legal power to prevent farmlands from being used for non-agricultural purposes. We just give permission on condition that the establishment cannot be built on cropland.

MOHAMMED NASIR UDDIN, Additional director of Ctg DAE



Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation
Rural and Peri-Urban Housing Finance Project-Second Phase
Foreign Financing and Project Unit, Head Office, Dhaka
Website: www.bhbfc.gov.bd



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANCY SERVICE- PROJECT FINANCIAL AUDITING SERVICE)

Country : The People's Republic of Bangladesh

Project : Rural and Peri-Urban Housing Finance Project-Second Phase

Sector : Peri-Urban and Rural Environment and Infrastructure

Consulting Service : Project Financial Auditing Services (Package S-03)

Mode of Financing : Installment Sale Financing and OCR Loan

Financing No : BGD-1087

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for financing from the Islamic Development Bank toward the cost of the Rural and Peri-Urban Housing Finance Project-Second Phase, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services.

2. The services include carrying out audit of the project in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), having regard to relevant financing agreements and IsDB's particular reporting and procurement requirements. The audit covers the financial transactions of the project period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2029. The assignment is expected to be commenced in September, 2024. The estimated 20 person-months are expected to be required for this assignment.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *can be found at the following website: www.bhbfc.gov.bd*

3. The Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC) as Executing Agency now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide specific information which demonstrates that they are fully qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

4. The short listing criteria are as below:

- The Consulting Firm should be eligible as per eligibility requirements contained in the IsDB's Guideline for the Procurement of Consultancy Services under IsDB Project Financing, April-2019 version, revised in February-2023;
- Must have a good reputation as a professional body and knowledge on financial management and audit requirements of IsDB and/or Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) specifically preparation of audit report with at least one project funded by MDBs or any international organizations;
- Must have at least 3 years specific experience on auditing in bank and financial institutions within last 10 years;
- Must have technical and managerial capability of the firm and staff, number of full time professional staffs required as per ToR. However, Key Experts will not be evaluated at the short-listing stage.

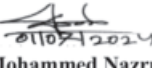
5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to 1.12.1, and 1.12.2 paragraphs, Part 1, Chapter 1 (pages 15-16) of the IsDB's Guidelines for Procurement of Consultancy Services under Islamic Development Bank Project Financing, April 2019 version, revised in February 2023 (the "Procurement Guidelines"), setting forth IsDB's policy on conflict of interest.

6. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

7. An auditing consultancy firm will be selected from a short list of local/domestic companies based on the Least-Cost selection method set out in the Procurement Guidelines.

8. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.


9. Expressions of interest (EOIs) must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by no later than 02:00 PM **on 18 July, 2024**. Both the hard copy as well as electronic version of EOIs will be acceptable.


(Mohammed Nazrul Islam)
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GD-1060

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Divisional Passport & Visa Office
E-7 Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.dip.gov.bd
Invitation for Enlistment

Sl. No.	Description	Detail
1.	Ministry/Division	Security Service Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2.	Agency	Department of Immigration & Passports (DIP)
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Divisional Passport & Visa Office, Agargaon, Dhaka.
4.	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh
6.	Invitation for	Enlistment of Firm for the supply of Furniture, Electronics, stationary items, goods, Stamp & Seals and related service.
7.	Invitation Ref No.	58.01.00000.601.07.001.24-1153
8.	Date	30/06/2024
KEY INFORMATION		
9.	Procurement Method	Limited Tendering Method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)
11.	Development Partners	None
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12.	Office Code	N/A
13.	Office Name	Divisional Passport & Visa Office, Agargaon, Dhaka.
14.	Application Closing Date and Time	21/07/2024 at 01:00 pm (BST)
15.	Name & Address	
Application Form Availability		Salma Akhi, Assistant Director, Divisional Passport & Visa Office, Agargaon, Dhaka. Room No-603. Telephone No- 02-58156425
Receiving Application Form		Jagadish Chandra Taty, Deputy Assistant Director, Room No-303, Divisional Passport & Visa Office, Agargaon, Dhaka. Telephone No- 02-58156425
INFORMATION FOR APPLICATION		
16.	Eligibility of Application	a) Vat Registration and TIN Certificate of the Suppliers. b) Up-to-date Trade License of Local Agent from City Corporation. c) Proprietorship/Partnership/Limited Company ie. Concerned Commercial Documents (Photocopy) of the Tenders. d) Money Receipt of purchase of Tender Documents. e) Proof of Solvency. f) Must confirm that has legal Capacity to enter into a contract under the authority with valid Power of Attorney. g) At least 3 years' experience certificate for the Supply of similar goods and related service.
17.	Brief Description of Goods or Works	a) Supply of Stationary items, b) Supply of office furniture and fixer. c) Supply of AC, Network items, Electronics goods and miscellaneous items.
Sl. No.	Description	Detail
18.	Brief Description of Related or Physical Services	N/A
19.	Price of Application Form	2000.00 BDT payable with treasury A-Chalan(Code No: 1610501-133252-1422328
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
20.	Name of Official Inviting Application	Director
21.	Designation of Official Inviting Application	Director
22.	Address of Official Inviting Application	Director, Divisional Passport & Visa Office, Agargaon, Dhaka.
23.	Contact details of Official Inviting Application	Telephone No- 02-58156425.
The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all the Tenders without assigning any reason.		


(Salma Akhi)
Assistant Director
For Director

GD- 1057