

Constitute commission to run Palli Bidyut Samity
Demand protesting employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) staffers yesterday demanded an independent commission, with the participation of student representatives, to run the samity (association) until the system is reformed.

PBS officials and their family members organised a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

They demanded the unification of PBS and Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board.

Protesting employees said REB sacked 24 PBS officials, while 18 employees of the organisation were arrested since October 17. That day, the employees cut supplies in most PBS centres for hours, leading to woes for thousands of rural customers.

"We are sorry for that [power outage], which was an instant reaction of the termination and arrests without prior notices," said Tanjidul Islam, junior engineer of Dhaka-1 PBS.

Meanwhile, Consumers Association of Bangladesh yesterday formed a committee to identify dispute between REB and PBS across the country.

A forest choking on fumes

Two factories burning batteries illegally inside Tangail's Sal forest; locals suffer from respiratory illnesses

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Smoke rising from factories, patches of ground blackened by waste, and areas marred by piles of debris – this is not a picture of a poorly managed industrial site, rather the once-pristine Sal forest in the Sagardighi area of Tangail's Ghatail upazila.

The forest seems suffocated, with signs of toxic activity creeping into the environment. The surrounding landscape, which should be green and thriving, instead looks tainted.

The reason? Illegal battery burning. The air looks thick with pollution, as if the trees themselves are choking from the fumes.

Two illegal lead factories have been set up inside this forest.

Initially, these factories were supervised by individuals affiliated with Awami League politics, said locals. However, after the fall of the previous government on August 5, control shifted to three local figures claiming ties to BNP politics – Poran Bhuiyan, Liton Bhuiyan, and Masud.

But these figures serve as mere local interest groups or

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supervisors at best.

The identity of the true owners of the factories remains a mystery.

But sources say the real owners are believed to be outsiders.

Contacted, Poran said, "People from Gaibandha, with the help of local Awami League figureheads, used to run these factories. We, with the help of locals, drove them away after August 5."

"A vested quarter is now spreading that we are involved. This is nothing but political propaganda," he added.

Liton and Masud could not be reached for comments.

Sagardighi Union Parishad Chairman Habibullah Bahar said the factory was shut down before August 5, but the operations

resumed in full swing after the AL's fall.

Several locals this newspaper spoke to echoed him.

The fumes that escape from these operations contain toxic chemicals that are not only polluting the environment but also harming the local community.

Many residents are experiencing respiratory illnesses and other health problems due to the continuous exposure to the poisonous smoke, said Mohammad Haider, a local.

When locals protested, they were assaulted by goons hired by the three, he added.

According to residents like Mohammad Haider, the battery burning begins late at night and ends at dawn, during which batteries are melted down to extract lead, releasing harmful acid and plastic fumes into the air.

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Jubo League leader hacked to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jubo League leader was hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram early yesterday.

The deceased is Firoz Khan, 35, of Uttar Kalabaria area under Baraiyadhala union.

Firoz was an organising secretary of Baraiyadhala union unit Jubo League, said police and locals.

Police said Firoz had been involved in five cases – four filed over robbery and another filed over a clash with Sitakunda Police Station.

Mujibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, said Firoz was hacked by some unidentified people after they called him out of his relative's houses in Lala Nagar area around 12:30am.

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Ban Chhatra League

Demand student leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti Discrimination Student Movement in Chattogram yesterday called for a ban on the activities of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

This demand was made during a rally held in protest against a sudden procession organised by BCL members in the Jamal Khan area early Saturday.

Addressing the rally, Khan Talat Mahmud, a coordinator of the movement's central unit, accused the BCL of being responsible for the deaths of many protesters during previous mass uprisings.

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PHOTO: TITU DAS

Workers making boats of various sizes using raintree and mahogany wood near Veduria Launch Ghat in Bhola. These labourers, who work from 8:00am to 5:00pm, earn around Tk 1,000 per day. The boats, used by fishermen, are then sold at prices ranging from Tk 4,000 to Tk 20,000, depending on their size. The photo was taken recently.

EXPLOSIONS IN MYANMAR

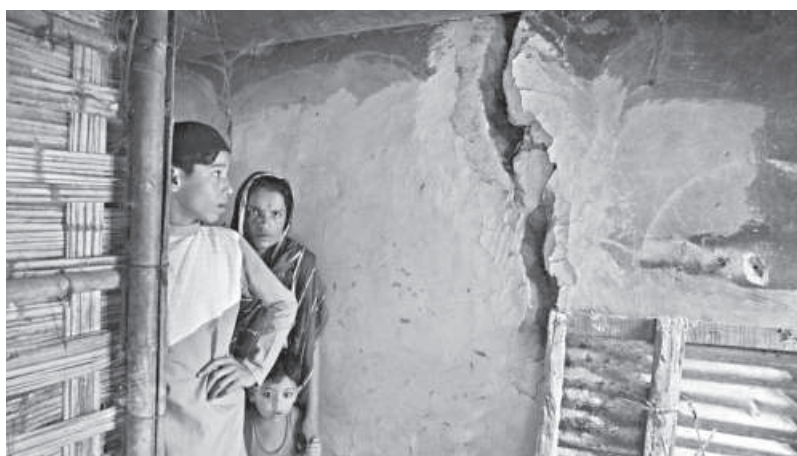
Cracks develop in 25 earthen houses in Teknaf village

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Cracks have developed in at least 25 earthen houses in a village in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, due to aftershocks from bomb explosions across the border, according to the villagers.

The Acharbuniya village under Sabrang is a bordering village located along the Naf River and just opposite the Mungdaw township, where an armed conflict has been ongoing between the Myanmar Junta troops and the rebel Arakan Army for several months.

During a visit to the village on Friday, it was observed that several



in. They also said they do not have enough money to repair their houses.

"Our houses shake as if there's an earthquake when bombs explode on the other side," said Jahed Ullah, a resident of the village.

The bombings have been impacting and damaging their houses for the past three months, he added.

Hamida Khatun, another local, said, "When the bombs go off with a huge sound, our children scream in fear. We live in fear, thinking what will happen if any of those bombs

ever fall here."

Contacted, Adnan Chowdhury, upazila nirbahi officer of Teknaf, said the issue has been reported to higher authorities, and affected families will receive government assistance.

When this correspondent was visiting the Shahporir Dwip Jetty on Friday afternoon, a Myanmar fighter jet was seen pounding bombs at Maungdaw. Loud sounds of explosions were being heard.

Abdul Hamid, a resident of the area, said the attacks intensify during the night.



houses, made of mud and brick, had developed deep cracks, putting the low-income families living there at risk.

The villagers expressed their frustration, saying they are being victims of a war they are not involved

"গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।"

স্বাধীন সমৃদ্ধশালী ও দুর্নীতিমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ গড়তে কাজ করুন।
- জাতীয় শুদ্ধাচার কৌশল

"বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার"



বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)

Invitation for International Tender

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division			
2. Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)			
3. Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL)			
4. Procuring entity district	Brahmanbaria			
5. Invitation for	Procurement of Drilling & Completion Works Including construction of rig foundation, third party engineering works & supply of materials for 4 wells at Titas & Kamta Fields on Turn-key basis.			
6. Invitation Ref. No.	BGFCL/4WDP(Works)/001, Date: 16-10-2024			
KEY INFORMATION				
7. Procurement method	International Competitive Tender (ICT), One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method.			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
8. Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and BGFC's own fund.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
9. Name of the project	Drilling of 4 Appraisal-cum-Development wells at Titas & Kamta Fields.			
10. Tender selling start date	24-10-2024, Tender document will be available from 10:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs. (BST) on all working days.			
11. Pre-tender meeting (date, time & location)	24-11-2024 (Sunday) at 11:30 Hrs. (BST) at BGFC's Liaison Office, Petrocentre (14th floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. Tenderer must have to buy tender document to attend the pre-tender meeting and maximum 3 persons may attend for each Tenderer			
12. Last selling date of tender document	22-12-2024 (Sunday)			
13. Last tender submission date and time	23-12-2024 (Monday) at 14:30 Hrs. (BST)			
14. Tender opening date and time	23-12-2024 (Monday) at 14:45 Hrs. (BST)			
Name & Address of the Office(s)				
15. Place of tender document selling	BGFC's Liaison Office, Petrocentre (14th floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.			
16. Place of tender submission & opening	Project Office "Drilling of 4 Appraisal-cum-Development wells at Titas & Kamta Fields" Project, Level-2, Head Office Complex, BGFC, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400, Bangladesh.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
17. Eligibility of tenderer	1. The tenderer from all countries except the countries those who have no diplomatic relationship with Bangladesh. 2. The tenderer may be a physical or juridical individual or body of individuals, or company, association or any combination of them in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) will be accepted.			
18. Brief description of works	Drilling and Completion works including construction of rig foundation, third party engineering works & supply of materials for 4 (four) deviated wells (Titas-28, 29, 30 & Kamta-2) at Titas & Kamta Gas Fields.			
19. Price of each tender document	BDT 10,000.00 or USD 100.00 (non-refundable).			
20. Let No.	Identification number	Location	Tender security amount	Completion time in weeks/months
1.	BGFCL/4WDP(Works)/001	1. Titas Gas Field, Brahmanbaria; and 2. Kamta Gas Field, Gazipur	USD 1,600,000.00 or BDT 20,000,000.00	20 months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
21. Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Jakir Hossain Tarafder			
22. Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Planning & Development), BGFC			
22. Address of official inviting tender	Planning & Development Division, Level-2, Head Office Complex, BGFC, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400, Bangladesh.			
Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone No: +8801730-317973, +8801787-677848, E-mail: pdd4wells@gmail.com			
23. Special instructions:	i) Tenderers must submit their tender(s) for all of the groups. Submission of alternative tender will not be allowed. Tenders must remain valid for 150 (one hundred and fifty) days from the date of opening of the tender. ii) The tender security must remain valid for 178 (one hundred and seventy-eight) days from the date of opening of the tender. iii) In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Govt. declared holiday, etc. tender will be received and opened on the following working day. iv) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the Tenderer. v) Tender submitted by E-mail will be rejected. Likewise photocopy of or E-mailed tenders will also be rejected. vi) The tendering procedures will be conducted as per The Public Procurement Act-2006 and The Public Procurement Rule-2008 of Bangladesh. The aforesaid notice is also available on the websites of BPPA: http://www.cptu.gov.bd , Petrobangla: www.petrobangla.org.bd and BGFC: www.bgfc.org.bd			
24. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders or annul the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected tenderers.				

28.10.1213.876.09.00.24(4WDP)
(12"x4")

Engr. Md. Jakir Hossain Tarafder
General Manager (Planning & Development)