

‘Cadre’ to be

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demand change, and we are working to deliver it.”

Addressing suggestions for renaming titles like “deputy commissioner,” he said the terms from the British era, such as collector or district administrator, are under consideration.

While structural reforms are essential, Mokhles emphasised that mindset and attitude shifts are critical for lasting transformation. “Real change starts with people’s attitudes. More changes are on the cards,” he said.

The commission continues to gather public feedback, with over 100,000 responses submitted online, underscoring the demand for reform.

PRAYER
TIMING
DECEMBER 2

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN

5-15

12-45

3-45

5-19

7-00

JAMAA

5-50

1-15

4-00

5-22

7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A Khulna City Corporation worker operates a fogging machine to eliminate mosquito larvae as the mosquito menace rises in the city. The photo was taken in the Abu Naser Hospital area recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Adopt gender-sensitive policies

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Aasha Mehreen Amin, joint editor of The Daily Star, highlighted the need to address the lack of adequate logistics, such as safe transport and work hours that align with societal expectations, to encourage more women to join journalism.

She said that the traditional newsroom culture, where journalists are expected to work long hours without balance, is impractical for anyone but particularly challenging for women, who often face

additional societal pressures.

“Many women don’t have the luxury of a partner to handle domestic responsibilities, making it even more difficult for them to thrive in this demanding profession. A radical shift in how we view work and the support systems in place is essential for more women to succeed in journalism,” she added.

Prothom Alo journalist Sumona Sharmin highlighted the struggles of working mothers. “When a new mother returns to work, her child may fall

sick, requiring her to leave early or provide extra care. If judged incapable due to her motherhood, she risks being sidelined in her career,” she said.

Addressing grassroots journalism, Anwarul Kabir Nantui, editor of Daily Loksamaj, emphasised the importance of job security and financial stability for women in local newspapers. “Without these, no one will join the profession,” he said.

The event was moderated by MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman.

Year-round strategy

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conditions for mosquitoes even into the winter months.

Prof Mushtaque Ahmed, microbiologist at Popular Medical College, called for the introduction of the dengue vaccine Qdenga in Bangladesh.

Approved by the World Health Organisation and European Medicines Agency, the vaccine has been in use in Indonesia since January and Brazil more recently.

“Qdenga, suitable for individuals aged six and above, has undergone trials in 17 countries, though Bangladesh was excluded. The vaccine costs Tk 8,000-10,000, but Indonesia has managed to procure it at a third of the price,” Prof Mushtaque added.

BPMCA President MA Mubin Khan pointed to Kolkata’s success in managing dengue as a model for Bangladesh.

“Kolkata maintains a year-round approach with ward-level workers focusing on awareness, preventing stagnant water, and sharing blood test results to ensure swift intervention,” he said.

The speakers also criticised the inequitable application of insecticides, with authorities prioritising affluent areas over less privileged ones, calling for equitable measures across the board.

CPD strives for a democratic, just society

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While making the introductory speech, CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan said the failure and unwillingness of a government to implement policies is a real problem that needs to be discussed.

The government is usually uncomfortable with the process of ensuring accountability, he said.

Rehman Sobhan said that from policy-making to the democratic process and beyond, the government essentially controls the entire domain.

Civil society, including academic and business communities, workers, and non-government organisations, should have their say in the policymaking process, he said.

“Most times policies are not implemented,” he said.

“So, no matter how radical or revolutionary you may want to be in terms of the reforms, you have to see how much they are going to be implemented,” he said.

They constantly wanted to keep the government accountable on this issue, he added.

Once finance ministers were willing to sit with

them, he said, adding, “But in recent years, the word ‘rubbish’ was used when intelligent observations were made about policymaking and implementation.”

Regarding CPD’s establishment in 1993, Rehman Sobhan said it aimed to create a space where all relevant stakeholders discuss problems and find solutions.

He said year after year cabinet members took part in CPD discussions in the presence of opposition leaders.

“Sadly, over the last 15 years or so, instead of progress, in some ways there was recession. The scope for having civilised dialogues to solve problems became much more adversarial over the years,” said Rehman Sobhan.

“Up to the 2014 election, every finance minister used to come to the CPD budget dialogue, but afterwards, no finance minister attended such a programme,” he said.

At the programme, CPD Distinguished Fellow Prof Rounaq Jahan said CPD can be a useful resource if this or the next government

really wants to remove discrimination.

She hoped that there will be a democratic environment in the country in the future so that CPD and others can discuss and make criticisms fearlessly.

“Now I see a lot of risks in expressing a lot of opinions. Not all of it is coming from the government; many people don’t want to hear from others,” she said.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury lauded CPD’s role, saying it has become an alternative voice outside political parties, providing a space to share opinions in the public interest.

“Democracy is not just about voting; it’s about the daily accountability of an elected government, which has been absent for the last 15 years due to stolen voting rights,” he said.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said CPD is liked by the media as it provides authentic, factual, and evidence-based information and analysis.

He said CPD has become part of the intellectual journey, creating a mindset

of tolerance.

“But the culture of tolerance and free-thinking faced attacks during the last 15 years,” he said, adding that a free media ensures accountability every day.

“Gagging the media was one of the reasons behind the fall of the immediate past government. If the then government allowed media freedom, she [Sheikh Hasina] could get true feedback...,” he added.

Mahfuz Anam echoed Amir Khasru on the issue of voting rights and said a free election helps ensure accountability.

“By taking away the voting, you take away the right to expression, all kinds of freedom, and creative thoughts. All these happened due to the manipulated elections in these 15 years,” he said.

Nihad Kabir, a board director of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Taslima Akter Lima, president of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Sanghati, spoke at the programme.

CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun chaired the programme where two books were also launched.

Tourist ships

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island typically begin in November. However, this year, due to various government decisions, ship movement started on December 1.

“Tourists must follow several regulations to protect the island’s environment, including a ban on polythene and

plastic. Additionally, travel passes are required to visit Saint Martin, which can be obtained via apps developed by the Bangladesh Tourism Board in cooperation with the Cox’s Bazar district administration,” he said.

Initially, the operation of tourist ships was

scheduled to begin last Thursday. However, due to a lack of passengers, ship authorities temporarily suspended travel to Saint Martin, he added.

Currently, due to recent tensions near the Myanmar border, shipping from Teknaf is not allowed. Only ships departing from Cox’s

Bazar town are permitted to operate.

To address environmental pollution on the island, the government has decided to limit the number of tourists. This year, only 2,000 tourists will be allowed to stay overnight on the island during December and January.

Stronger push

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criticised the interim government’s constitutional reform commission for excluding indigenous representation.

Nipun Tripura, president of Parbatya Chattagram Pahari Chhatra Parishad, echoed these concerns, while Gajendra Nath Mahato, assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, said, “Despite the formation of ten reform commissions, the interim government failed to include indigenous representation.” He added that this exclusion has led to the marginalisation of indigenous communities, with their lands being seized under the guise of tourism.

Sajedul Haque Rubel, central secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the July uprising raised hopes for democracy, but these aspirations remain unfulfilled.

Monira Tripura, a PCJSS member, reiterated the call for immediate, time-bound implementation of the treaty.

The discussion was presided over by Ajoy A Mree, vice president of the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, and moderated by PCJSS member Trijinand Chakma.

EAST WEST UNIVERSITY

Progoti Foundation for Education and Development

Permanent Sanad Holder

INVITATION OF TENDER

Tender is invited from the bonafide/intending suppliers/firms for the following items:

1. Procurement of different types of Printer Cartridge for various Departments/ Offices of EWU for the period from January to June 2025

2. Extension and Renovation of Prayer Rooms of EWU

3. Procurement of different types of Laboratory Instrument for the Department of GEB

4. Procurement of Laboratory Chemical and Reagent for the Department of Pharmacy

5. Procurement of Laboratory Glassware, Apparatus and Supplies (Consumable) for the Department of Pharmacy

6. Procurement of different Lab instruments for the Department of Pharmacy

7. Roof treatment and repairing work at Roof of Block-C (beside the Dept. of Social Relations), Library’s Stair Roof Slab and Roof of Block-B (Dept. of GEB) of EWU

8. Procurement of different types of Lab items for the Chemistry Lab, Department of MPS

9. Supply and Installation of Flap Barrier at the entrance of EWU

The schedule of the items with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Finance & Accounts Department (1st floor) of the University until **23.12.2024** during office hours (until 03:00 p.m.) on working days. The schedule of item **no.1** will also be available in the e-tender process (<http://etender.ewubd.edu>). The price of the tender schedule (non-refundable) is **Tk.500/-** (Taka Five Hundred) only.

The interested bidders are requested to submit the tender schedule **by 24.12.2024 within 02:00 P.M.** through hard copy or e-tender process (as mentioned in the schedule). The tender (hard copy) must be dropped in the tender box kept at the 2nd floor of the office of the Treasurer (Room No-316) of the University. The tender(s) submitted within the deadline will be opened **on the same day (24.12.2024) at 02:15 P.M.** in the Conference Room (4th floor) of East West University in the presence of the representatives of the bidders.

The bidders must mention the “**name of the item**” at the top of envelope. Otherwise, the bid document will be treated as cancelled.

East West University authority reserves the right to accept any tender in full or part of it or reject all tenders without mentioning any reason thereof.

Chief of HR & Logistics

পলি কার্মা-সাহায্যক
ফাউন্ডেশন

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 02-222218331-33, 02-222218335-39, Fax: 02-222218341; website: www.pksf.org.bd

Ref. No: 53.23.0000.001.03.122.24.7700

Date: 01 December 2024

Request for Expression of Interest (REoi)
(Selection of Individual Consultant: National)

A. Basic Information (Procuring Entity, Assignment, Procurement Method, Source of Fund, etc.) for the Consultant:

1	Name of the Organization	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
2	Procuring Entity Name & Designation	Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin, Additional Managing Director
3	Package Number, Name of the Package, and Minimum Qualifications (Details in ToR).	<div>a) PKSF/GCF/RSMP-2/2024-25/SR-01: Selection of an Individual Consultant for Assessment of Energy Use and Waste Management of PKSF, Qualification: Bachelor and Master's degree in the subject/field of Environmental Science/Forestry/ Geography and Environment/Chemical Engineering or any other relevant subject. No third division/ class at any level is acceptable. Experience in conducting resource efficiency assessments and developing RECP strategies.</div> <div>b) PKSF/GCF/RSMP-2/2024-25/SR-03: Selection of an Individual Consultant for Feasibility Study of "Water Efficient Boro Rice Cultivation in Bangladesh (WEBC-BD)" Project, Qualification: Bachelor and Master's degree in the subject/field of Economics/ Agricultural Economics/Agricultural Engineering/Water Resources Management/ Environmental Science from a recognized university with a minimum of two first-division/class. No third division/ class at any level is acceptable. Minimum ten (10) years of proven experience in conducting feasibility studies for agricultural development/development projects</div> <div>c) PKSF/GCF/RSMP-2/2024-25/SR-05: Selection of an Individual Consultant to Develop a GCF Standard Full Funding Proposal on "Promoting Climate-Resilient Aquaculture for Climate-Vulnerable People of Bangladesh" Project, Qualification: Bachelor and Master's degree in the subject/field of Fisheries/Zoology (Major in Fisheries/ Fisheries Biology and Genetics/Aquaculture/ Fisheries Management/ Fisheries Technology/Marine Science from a recognized university with a minimum of two first-division/classes. No third division/ class at any level is acceptable. Minimum of ten (10) years of proven experience in aquaculture-related project/program development, preferably in the environment and Climate change sector</div> <div>d) PKSF/GCF/RSMP-2/2024-25/SR-06: Selection of an Individual Consultant to Develop GCF Standard Full Funding Proposal on "Resilient Infrastructure to Combat Climate Change Impact in Flash Flood Prone Haor Areas of Bangladesh (RIH) Project", Qualification: Bachelor and Master's degree in the subject/field of Economics/ Environmental Science/Fisheries/Agriculture from a recognized university with a minimum of two first-division/classes. No third division/ class at any level is acceptable. Minimum of ten (10) years of proven experience in project/program development, preferably in the environment and Climate change sector.</div>
4	EOI Publishing Date	02 December 2024
5	Procurement Method	Individual Consultant Selection (ICS)
6	Source of Fund	BGD-RS-007: GCF Readiness Project-2.
7	Development Partner	Green Climate Fund (GCF)
8	Project Name	Increasing the Capacity of Bangladesh's NDA and Direct Access Accredited Entities to Access GCF Resources
9	EOI submission closing date, time, and place	Date: 17 December 2024; Time: 2:00 PM; PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

B. Key Information for the Consultant:

10	Brief description of the assignment	The detailed Request for Application (RFA) documents, including the Terms of Reference (ToR) of these four packages, are obtainable from the office of the undersigned during office hours: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, free of cost. It will also be available at the PKSF website: https://pksf.org.bd/tender/ .
11	Experience, resource, and delivery capacity required of the Consultant	
12	Other Details	
C. Procurement Entity Details:		
13	Name of the Official Inviting EOI	Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin
14	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Additional Managing Director
15	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
16	Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI	Telephone: 02-222218211; e-mail: jashim@pksf.org.bd
The Procurement Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all applications.		
Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin Additional Managing Director		