

Mujgunni Highway crumbles within a year

Tk 20 crore renovation sparks outrage

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Merely a year after being renovated, the 5.5-kilometre-long Mujgunni Highway between Sonadanga Bus Terminal and Notun Rasta Intersection in Khulna has become rundown yet again.

The road earlier remained in a dilapidated state for long 12 years, before the Khulna City Corporation initiated to renovate in 2021, and completed the work in May 2023, spending Tk 20 crore.

While the city dwellers became hopeful that the newly renovated road would turn the route smooth and accessible for their commutes, their hope faded away soon afterwards as it turned impassable within a year.

Visiting the road recently, this correspondent observed that its bitumen surface has worn off and paved the way for the formation of numerous small and large potholes, making it an arduous task for vehicles to ply the road safely.

Vehicles — including easy bikes, rickshaws, and pickup trucks — were seen using only one side of the road, avoiding the damaged parts to prevent accidents.

Numerous important landmarks of the city are located on both sides of Mujgunni Highway, including the 500-bed Khulna Medical College Hospital, Khulna Specialised Hospital, several education institutions, Indian Visa Application Centre, around 50 public and private

offices, and three residential areas under Khulna Development Authority. As such, the road is a vital one for the city dwellers for their daily commute.

Also, most people from the western suburbs — including Khalishpur and Daulatpur areas — use the road to go to the central city.

City dwellers alleged that the authorities concerned were negligent in properly implementing the renovation work. They claim that contractors used low-quality materials for road construction and got away with it, resulting in a complete waste of public money.

KCC officials, however, claimed that heavy traffic and persistent waterlogging on the road during the monsoon led to its rapid deterioration.

KCC had also spent around Tk 33 crore to construct drains on both sides of the road. However, considering its claim that waterlogging caused damage to the road, it is apparent that the drains did not serve their purpose well.

According to KCC documents, one Kohinur Enterprise got the Tk 9.5 crore work order to renovate the first 2.758km of the road from Sonadanga Bus Terminal to Police Lines, while Mozahar Enterprises and Shaheed Enterprises jointly renovated the rest 2.545km till Notun Rasta intersection for Tk 10.68 crore.

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A young boy warms his hands over a makeshift fire as the winter cold begins to grip the city. With temperatures dropping, people are turning to such makeshift fires and winter clothing to keep themselves warm. The photo was taken in the capital's Lalmatia area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MYMENSINGH REGION Aman harvest brings smiles to farmers' faces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Smiles have returned to the faces of farmers in the Mymensingh region with the good harvests of Aman paddy this season, followed by fair market prices.

Around 40 percent of paddy has already been harvested so far, said Dr Salma Laizoo, additional director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in the Mymensingh division.

"Even though hundreds of farmers incurred losses due to recent flash floods and torrential rainfall in Mymensingh, Netrakona, and Sherpur districts,



there will not be any major reduction to the total production of Aman paddy, which in turn will help the affected farmers recover their losses," she added.

Mizan Ali, a farmer of Char Gobindapur village under Mymensingh Sadar upazila, said he got a good profit from his harvest.

"It cost me Tk 3,000 to cultivate Aman paddy on every 10-decimal land. I harvested an average of four maunds of paddy from every 10-decimal land, and it

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Afsarul Arifeen passes away

STAR REPORT

Afsarul Arifeen,

secretary general

of Dhaka

Chamber

of Commerce & Industry,

died of a cardiac arrest

at a Dhaka hospital on

December 6, aged 56,

said a press release.

DCCI President

Ashraf Ahmed

expressed their deep

shock. His namaz e-

janaza will be held at

10:30am today at the

Mohammed Sporting

Club, Motijheel. Later,

he will be buried

at Jannatul Mawa

graveyard, Mirpur 11.



POLLS IRREGULARITIES Reform commission to sit with 30 DCs, UNOs today

BAHARAM KHAN

The Electoral Reform Commission asked 30 returning officers and assistant returning officers to attend a meeting today to gather information on alleged irregularities in the previous three national polls held under the previous Awami League government.

In those elections, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners (DCs) served as returning officers while Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) acted as assistant returning officers.

The meeting is scheduled for 10:30am at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

On December 4, Badiul Alam Majumdar, head of the reform commission, wrote to Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary of public administration ministry, requesting to arrange the attendance for these officials.

Accordingly, the ministry invited the officers, including several former secretaries and at least one current secretary, to the meeting.

A total of 30 officials have been invited, including two former division commissioners, 13 former DCs, 14 former UNOs, and one former deputy director of Local Government.

According to four officials involved in the arrangements, the reform commission intends to seek information regarding the alleged irregularities in the elections, who issued the directives, and how these directives were implemented by returning and assistant returning officers.

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Two held over rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained two youths on charges of raping a girl in the capital's Mirpur area yesterday.

One of the accused was identified as Sagar, 24, said Md Alauddin, a SI of Mirpur Police Station.

Quoting the 15-year-old girl, her family said she was lured to a house in Mirpur-II, where she was raped. When the girl fell sick, one of the youths called his friend for help. They took her to a nearby hospital, where the authorities informed the police, leading to their detention.

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Ref: ERL/PLT/e-GP: 34,36,37,39/2024 Date: 05/12/2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders have been invited in the national e-GP System portal for procurement of the goods as stated below:

Sl#	Tender Reference	Tender ID	Description of Goods & related service	Tender Doc Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing, Opening Date & Time
1	ERL/PLT/e-GP-34/2024	1040649	Supply of 3 Phase oil immersed and naturally Air cooled Transformer (160KVA)	22-12-2024 16:00 hrs	23-12-2024 12:30 hrs
2	ERL/PLT/e-GP-36/2024	1040647	Supply, Installation, & Commissioning of Digital Photo Copier With Printer, Toner, Scanner & Other Accessories.	22-12-2024 16:00 hrs	23-12-2024 12:30 hrs
3	ERL/PLT/e-GP-37/2024	1040648	Supply of Automatic Distillation Apparatus	22-12-2024 16:00 hrs	23-12-2024 12:30 hrs
4	ERL/PLT/e-GP-39/2024	1040650	Supply Installation testing and commissioning of skid mounted Diesel Engine Generator & ATS	22-12-2024 16:00 hrs	23-12-2024 12:30 hrs

Procuring Entity Details: Md. Tariq Hossain, Manager (Purchase), Phone: 880-02-3333 01261-70 (382) Email: managerip@eri.com.bd

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted through National e-GP Portal <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in 9th National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd GD- 1138

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
Power Division
Power Cell
Biddyt Bhaban (13th Floor), 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTING FIRM FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY (Including ESIA) For APPROXIMATE 70 MW (AC) GRID TIED SOLAR POWER PROJECT AT MATARBARI, COX'S BAZAR**

No: 27.71.0000.003.03.008.24-964 Date: 08/12/2024

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a fund from the International Development Agency and it intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contracts for appointment of consulting firm for "Feasibility Study(Including ESIA) for Approximate 70 MW (AC) Grid Tied Solar Power Project at Matarbari, Cox's Bazar". Power Cell, therefore, intends to appoint an internationally reputed consultancy firm to accomplish the mentioned services by using World Bank fund under "TA for Strengthening and Development of Sustainable Power Sector in Bangladesh" project of Power Cell, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resource.

2. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The short-listing criteria are:

- General experience of the firm;
- Experience in similar projects of compatible size, complexity and technical specialty in the REZ;
- Financial soundness of the firm;
- Resources, key experts & support services of the firm.

3. A consulting firm is allowed to submit the Expression of Interest (EOI) alone if it considers itself to be fully qualified on its own for the assignment, as it is not mandatory for consultants to associate with any other firm(s), whether foreign or local. Alternatively, if consultants themselves choose to associate to enhance their qualifications and capability for the assignment, then such associations may either be as a Joint Venture (i.e. all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally responsible) and/or Sub-consultants (i.e. the Consultant will be responsible, including for the services of the sub-consultant). In case of an association, the Consultants must explain in the EOI submission (a) the rationale for forming the association and (b) the anticipated role and relevant qualifications of each member of the Joint Venture and/or of each sub-consultant for carrying out the assignment, to justify the proposed inclusion of the JV members and/or sub-consultants in the association. Failure to provide the above explanation in the Expression of Interest may risk the association not being shortlisted for the assignment. However, the qualifications/experience of sub-consultants will not be considered by Power Cell in the evaluation of Expressions of Interest for shortlisting purposes.

4. Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents against the above mentioned criteria: (a) The Firm's Incorporation/Trade/registration documents from the country of the firm; (b) JV agreement/letter of intent (if applicable); (c) Firm's brochure; (d) Description of similar consultancy contracts, including the scope, contract amount, name of Client, period of the contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location/country of the services, etc.; (e) Service experience record (including nature, total cost, total inputs in terms of staff month, employer, location, scope of the service etc.); (f) Short Biography of Key Professional; (g) Company's Income Tax certificate/Income Tax registration certificate. The experience of a parent company, subsidiary company, group company or associates (whatever the names) of the applicant (consulting firm) shall not be considered in evaluation.

5. This is a Retender call. Detail Scope of Work will be available in the Terms of Reference (TOR) which can be downloaded from the website of Power Division (www.powerdivision.gov.bd), Power Cell (www.powercell.gov.bd), Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (www.cpgcl.gov.bd) and CPTU website from the date of publication of EOI.

6. Interested Firms are requested to submit their EOI in 2 (Two) sets, (one original and one duplicate) in the address of the undersigned and clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest" for "Feasibility Study(Including ESIA) for Approximate 70 MW (AC) Grid Tied Solar Power Project at Matarbari, Cox's Bazar" on or before the submission deadline of **08 January, 2025, 15:00 Hours (BST)**. Any submission received after the submission date & time will not be accepted.

7. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

(A J M Ershad Ahsan Habib)
Joint Secretary (Budget), Power Division &
Director General (Addl. Charge)
Tel: +88 (02) 223386040
E-mail: dg@powercell.gov.bd

Foreigners won't be allowed to stay illegally

Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign nationals will not be allowed to stay or work illegally in Bangladesh, said Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

Addressing reporters at the Secretariat after a meeting on law and order during Christmas and New Year's Eve, he emphasised strict enforcement against undocumented foreign workers.

"Many foreigners are alleged to be staying and working illegally. They must regularise their status immediately with proper documentation," said a home ministry circular signed by officials Khuda Bakh Chowdhury and Mohammad Abdul Momen.

It warned of legal action against violators.

When asked about the number of undocumented workers, Jahangir said, "We don't have precise statistics. People from various countries are involved, and no illegal stay will be permitted."

Meanwhile, while attending the BGB assistance programme at BGB headquarters in the capital's Palkhona, the adviser said BGB has been instructed to take action according to the situation on the border.

Jahangir said BGB will always be ready on the border. BGB will never show its back, he also said, adding that BGB has been instructed that no concession will be given in any kind of tension on the border.

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e-GP: Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Works	Tender Document last Selling Date & Time	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	1043903	Printing of Office file cover with board and others	17.12.2024 4:00 PM	18.12.2024; up to 11:00 AM	18.12.2024 ; 12:00 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sd/-
Director (Admin & Finance)
BMET, Dhaka.-1000.
Phone : 8300264 (office).

GD-1137