



Jatra Pala, a tradition rooted in rural winters

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

On a chilly December evening in Hatbati village, under the open sky, the air was filled with a sense of nostalgia and excitement. Wrapped in warm shawls and blankets, villagers from Batiaghata upazila in Khulna gathered at the District Satsang Ashram Centre to witness something that many thought was slowly fading away: a Jatra Pala performance.

For decades, Jatra Pala – an elaborate blend of storytelling, music, and dance – had been a cornerstone of rural Bangladesh’s winter celebrations. After the autumn harvest, entire communities would come together to enjoy nightlong performances, losing themselves in tales of history, folklore, and social values. But in recent years, this vibrant tradition had been overshadowed by the rapid rise of technology and changing cultural preferences.

This year, however, a glimmer of hope emerged. The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, in collaboration with its Khulna District branch, organised a seven-day Jatra Festival to breathe new life into this nearly forgotten art form.

Starting on December 19, the festival transformed Hatbati village into a hub of activity. Each night till December 25, hundreds of spectators, young and old, flocked to the stage. Some brought makeshift stools, while others simply sat on the ground, huddled together to ward off the cold.

The performances were nothing short of mesmerising. With expressive dialogues, stirring music, and vibrant costumes, the troupes transported the audience to another world – one where tradition and creativity thrived hand in hand.

“I hadn’t seen a Jatra in years,” said Tripti Bairagi, a resident of Chak Soilmari village. “People stayed until the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A thick cloud of dust envelops the Khulna-Jashore highway, which remains in a long-neglected and dilapidated condition, posing health risks to people. The photo was taken in Khulna’s Chengutia area yesterday.

Save 5 canals from encroachment

Residents urge authorities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

Residents of Bagerhat municipality have called upon the authorities concerned to take prompt steps for saving five canals from indiscriminate pollution and rampant illegal encroachment.

They are Basabati, Nagerbazar, Bailer, Sarui, and Harikhali canals in the municipality.

Once vibrant waterways, the canals have lost their natural flow and navigability due to dumping of wastes and encroachment over the years.

At present, the canals are barely clinging to life, with stagnant water that emanates stench and serves as mosquito breeding ground. In monsoon, the canals cause waterlogging in adjoining areas as those are no longer able to drain away

excess water.

Locals blamed neglect and lack of monitoring by the authorities concerned behind the unregulated waste disposal and encroachments.

“The Harikhali canal was once a lifeline for farmers as it provided much needed water for irrigation to hundreds of acres of paddy fields. Over the past two decades, much of the canal’s land has been encroached upon for constructing structures, while it dried up and lost its flow due to siltation and dumping of wastes. As a result, agricultural activities in the neighbouring areas could no longer be continued,” said Habib Sheikh, a resident of the Harikhali area.

Hasan Sheikh, who lives near Nagerbazar canal, echoed him.

Contacted, TM Rezaul Haque

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Farmer killed ‘by nephew’ over land in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

A 58-year-old farmer was killed allegedly by his nephew over a land dispute in Jamalpur yesterday.

The incident occurred at Teghria village in Madarganj upazila around 10:00am, said police.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Kalam, son of late Hossain Ali of the village.

Quoting locals, Hasan Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Madarganj Police Station, said there had been a longstanding dispute between Abdul Kalam and his nephew, Manju Mandal,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

JCD leader beaten to death ‘by BNP men’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was beaten to death allegedly by some BNP men during a clash in Narayanganj’s Rupganj upazila on Tuesday night.

The deceased, Pavel Mia, was the former convener of JCD’s Kanchan municipality unit.

He was assaulted around 10:30pm by a group of BNP men, following a dispute, said Mehedi Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police in Narayanganj.

According to police and locals, an argument broke out between Shuvo, a Swechhchasebak League activist, and Aminul Islam, member secretary of the Swechhchasebak Dal’s Kanchan unit.

Later, Md Bayejid, general secretary of a BNP ward unit, intervened on Shuvo’s behalf.

Bayejid, along with local BNP activist Jahangir and their followers, set out to find Aminul. On their way, they encountered Pavel and attacked him, said police.

Pavel was taken to a local private hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Following Pavel’s death, his followers set fire to three tin-shed houses belonging to members of the opposing faction.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

‘We’re on alert to prevent Rohingya infiltration’

Says DG of Coast Guard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Cox’s Bazar*

Rohingyas attempt to infiltrate into Bangladesh daily, and the Coast Guard pushes them back, said Director General of the Bangladesh Coast Guard Rear Admiral Ziaul Haque yesterday.


He mentioned that Rohingyas are now using routes other than the Naf river to enter the country, often with the help of some locals.

He urged locals to assist the forces in preventing such infiltration more effectively.

He made the remarks while visiting the Myanmar border areas in Teknaf and Saint Martin’s Island in Cox’s Bazar.

“Teknaf and Saint Martin’s are close to the Myanmar border, so the Coast Guard works around the clock to ensure security. The ongoing conflict between Myanmar’s junta and the Arakan Army has intensified, with the junta forces facing defeats. While shelling across the border has

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Atomic Energy Centre

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission


4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, G.P.O Box No-164, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000

Tel. No: 02-58610256; Fax : 88-02-58617946, E-mail : aecdbaec@gmail.com

Invitation for Re-Tender

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science & Technology
2. Agency	Atomic Energy Centre, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Dhaka.
3. Procuring Entity Name	Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.
4. Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Invitation for	Tender
7. Invitation Ref No	39.01.2675.238.26.010.17
8. Date	22-12-2024
KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) Type: National Competitive Tender (NCT)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
11. Development Partners	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12. Tender Package No.	N/A
13. Tender Package Name	Hiring of Transportation Service
14. Tender Publication Date	26-12-2024
15. Tender Last Selling Date	07-01-2025 until 4.00 PM
16. Tender Submission date & Time	08-01-2025, 12:00 PM
17. Tender Opening Date and Time	08-01-2025, 12:30 PM
18. Name & Address of the office(s)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue,Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
-Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Accounts Officer, Accounts section, Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue,Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
- Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A
- Receiving Tender Document	Committee Room (1 st Floor), Tender Should be dropped into the tender box kept at the office of the Administrative Branch, Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
- Opening Tender Document	Committee Room (1 st Floor), Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
19. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Committee Room (1 st Floor), Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000, Date : 06-01-2025, 11.00 AM
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
20. Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) Up-to-date trade license (ii) Up-to-date Income tax clearing certificate (iii) VAT registration certificate (iv) Updated vehicle tax token, fitness certificate and Proposed vehicle registration certificate (v) Shall have minimum 03 (Three) years of specific experience in providing of similar Jobs and related services in Government / Semi-Government/Semi-Autonomous/Autonomous Organization/ Any recognized private company to be shown and attested copies of the relevant papers submitted with the tender and other as described in TDS. (vi) Non AC Minibus/ Ac Microbus/Ac Car shall be delivered according to documents submitted in line with tender document. (vii) Financial Solvency Certificate with Bank Statement (viii) Other detail instructions given into the tender schedule
21. Brief Description of Services	Bringing and dropping of the Officers and Staff of the Atomic Energy Centre, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, G.P.O Box No-164,Shahbag, Dhaka-1000 and their residence respectively through various routes as described in the Tender Document at Dhaka City.

		Model of Vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Non AC Minibus-2018 & aboveAc Microbus-2018 & aboveAc Car: 2018 & above Body of Vehicles: Hino/Aftab automobiles/ Nissan motors/Obi motors /Uttara motors/Hiyes/corolla or similar quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vehicles shall be minimum seated are given below:Non AC Minibus-36 seat (No. of 03), AC Microbus- 10 seat (No. of 02), AC Car – 05 seat (No. of 01)Vehicles shall be in good condition according to satisfaction of committee.			
22.	How to Obtain Tender Document	Tender documents should be collected hand on cash payment of the amount (non-refundable) mentioned on all working days during office hours up to 07/01/2025 on written request to and permission from the undersigned with the application on the letter head pad of the firm.			
23.	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	TK. 1000/- (Taka One Thousand) only payable in cash payment. (Non-Refundable)			
	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time in Weeks/ Months From date of Contract signing
24	03	Mirpur-12,11,10 to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (Non AC Minibus-36 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	38,000/- (Thirty eight thousand Tk. only)	24 (Twenty Four) Months from the date of Contract Signing or as per contract
25	04	Mirpur-14,13,10,2,1 to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (Non AC Minibus-36 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	38,000/- (Thirty eight thousand Tk. only)	
26	05	Mirpur-2 (60 Feet) to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down.(Non AC Minibus-36 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	38,000/- (Thirty eight thousand Tk. only)	
27	09	Mirpur12,07,10(banarosipolli)-Mirpur 02- to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (AC Microbus- 10 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	30,000/- (Thirty thousand Tk. only)	
28	10	Badshamia road-Demra to Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down. (AC Microbus- 10 seat)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	30,000/- (Thirty thousand Tk. only)	
29	13	Oasis at isphani colony, Mogbazarto Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka Up and Down.(AC Car- 05 seat) (The route is subject to change according to the residence of the director)	Atomic Energy Centre, 4- KaziNazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000	24,000/- (Twenty four thousand Tk. only)	
Tender security Bank draft/ Pay order/ Bank guarantee (According to PSN-04 form the tender document) in favor of "Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka" from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.					
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
30.	Name of Official Inviting Tender		Rokeya Begum, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.		
31.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Administrative Officer, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.		
32.	Address of Official Inviting Tender		Atomic Energy Centre, 4-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000		
33.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Tel. No:02-58610256; Fax No.: 88-02-58617946 E-mail:adminaecd@baec.gov.bd		
34.	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Tenders without any explanation. This tender shall be governed by "The Public Procurement Act 2006 and The Public Procurement Regulations 2008".				



(Rokeya Begum)
Administrative Officer
Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka.