

BNP leader arrested for sexual harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An expelled BNP leader was arrested on the charge of sexual harassment in Sirajganj Sadar upazila on Sunday.

A local court sent the arrestee to jail on Sunday afternoon, police confirmed yesterday.

The arrestee, Juel Rana, hailing from the Char Solimaband area in Chowhali upazila, was the organising secretary of the Chowhali upazila unit of BNP before he was expelled from the post on January 14.

Juel allegedly sexually harassed a young boy in his village on January 11, said Jiaur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chowhali Police Station.

The victim's father filed a case against Juel with the police station. Juel has been in hiding since then, added the OC.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab arrested Juel from Sirajganj town and later handed him over to police, the OC said.

The Sirajganj district unit of BNP expelled Juel from his post for violating the party's decorum.

Tobacco cultivation surge sparks alarm



S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Tobacco cultivation in the Rangpur region has increased significantly this year, with 19,250 hectares of land now under cultivation, up from 13,349 hectares last year, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension.

The department has expressed concern over this rise, noting that the cultivation area stood at 10,820 hectares in 2023.

Officials report that 60 percent of the region's tobacco is produced in Lalmonirhat, followed by 20 percent in Rangpur, 15 percent in Nilphamari, and 5 percent in Gaibandha.

Farmers, meanwhile, cite the high profitability of tobacco as a reason for its increased cultivation.

Sejeb Ali, a farmer from Tiparbazar village in Aditmari, expanded his tobacco farming from four bighas last year to seven this year, earning Tk 2,77,200 from 33 maunds of tobacco in 2024 while spending Tk 86,000.

Abdul Quader, a veteran farmer from Mominpur village in Rangpur Sadar, has

been cultivating tobacco for 39 years and noted a sharp rise in its production this year. He doubled his cultivation from five to 10 bighas, attributing the trend to higher market prices and the support provided by tobacco companies, including seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, and interest-free loans.

Omar Faruk, agriculture officer of Aditmari upazila, criticised tobacco companies for encouraging cultivation, which he said depletes soil fertility and hampers food production.

Oabidur Rahman Mandal, additional director of DAE in Rangpur, said tobacco cultivation, though lucrative for farmers, harms the soil, environment, and human health.

He said the DAE cannot take firm measures as tobacco cultivation has not been officially banned, adding that its unchecked growth poses a severe risk to agriculture.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner HM Raqib Hayder said measures to curb tobacco cultivation would be taken in consultation with the agriculture department, and the matter has been reported to higher authorities.

US Coast Guard team to visit Ctg port today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A delegation from the United States Coast Guard is scheduled to visit Chattogram Port today to evaluate its security and operations-related facilities.

The four-member delegation of US Coast Guard, led by Lt Commander Khiem Nagy, arrived in Dhaka on January 18 on a six-day visit under its International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) programme.

The team, during its two-day visit to Chattogram, will meet Chittagong Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, and inspect and assess if the port's security measures are in place and related facilities including private off-docks comply with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, sources said.

The team will visit different port facilities, a private off-dock Ispahani Summit Alliance Container Terminal Ltd, another private ICD named Incontrade Container Ltd, and Patenga Container Terminal of the port.

Ctg-Cox's Bazar route gets 2 new trains from Feb 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two new intercity trains will start operating on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar route from February 1.

Bangladesh Railway issued a letter in this regard yesterday, and instructed its departments to allocate manpower, locomotives, coaches for the trains' operation.

The trains -- Saikat and Prabal express -- will have 743 seats each, said the letter signed by Kamal Akter Hossain, additional chief operating superintendent of BR (East Zone).

BASHUNDHARA GROUP
Probe 470-acre Ctg land allocation: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to form a committee to investigate allegations of irregularities in allocating 470 acres of land in Chattogram to Bashundhara Group by misclassifying the land as wetlands.

The land secretary, cabinet secretary, chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, director general of Land Records and Survey Department, and divisional commissioner of Chattogram have been directed to comply.

The committee has been asked to submit a report to the court within three months, stating its progress.

The HC also issued a rule asking why the land allocation to Bashundhara Group should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Zubina Asaf issued the order after hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Kawsar in December last year as public interest litigation.

The petition was based on a report published on October 10 by the online portal "Bangla Outlook," titled 'Bashundhara allocated land by showing them wetland.'

The petitioner challenged the legality of the allocation and sought an order of probe into the allegations.

Lawyer Kawsar moved the writ petition before the HC himself.

After the HC order, he told The Daily Star that the land, originally classified as sandy beach land, was reclassified as wetland to facilitate its allocation.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

"গ্রাম জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করন।"

"বাংলার সুন্দরী মুকুট।
পুর হবে অনাড়া।
জাতীয় সুন্দরী কেশল""বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা
সর্বোচ্চ অ্যাধিকার"বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস কোম্পানি
Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)

INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER NOTICE

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Energy & Mineral Resources Division	
2. Agency	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFL), A Company of Petrobangla	
3. Procuring entity	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFL)	
4. Procuring Entity Code	----	
5. Procuring Entity District	Brahmanbaria	
6. Invitation Reference No.	Tender Ref. No. BGFL/GOODS(FP)/221(R) Dated January 19, 2025	
7. Invitation for	Procurement of Ball Bearing, Bushing & Coupling under Group-A, Seamless Stainless Steel Tubing & Tube Fittings, Seamless Carbon Steel Pipe, Stud Bolt with Nuts, Pressure Gauge Snubber, Pressure Gauge & Blind Flange under Group-B, Direct Spring Pressure Relief Valve and Ball Valve under Group-C and Portable Pneumatic Calibrator under Group-D.	
8. Procurement Method	Single stage two-envelope open tendering (International Competitive tendering)	
9. Budget & Source of Fund	Own Fund of BGFL	
10. Tender Publication Date	January 20, 2025	
11. Tender Selling Date & Time	<p>a) Tender documents will be available between 09.00 hrs & 15.00 hrs (BST) on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from January 21, 2025 to February 18, 2025. No extension in closing date for selling of tender documents will be allowed.</p> <p>b) Place: BGFL's Liaison office at Petrocentre (14th Floor), 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka.</p> <p>c) Price of Tender Document: Tender documents will be sold on payment of USD 20.00 or BDT. 2,400.00 (Non-refundable)</p>	
12. Tender Closing Date & Time	<p>a) Date & time: February 19, 2025 up to 14:15 hrs (BST).</p> <p>b) Place: BGFL Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400.</p>	
13. Tender Opening Date & Time	<p>a) Date & time: February 19, 2025 at 14:30 hrs (BST) in presence of the Tenderer's representatives, if any.</p> <p>b) Place: BGFL Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400.</p>	
14. Date, Time & Place for Pre- Tender meeting	Not Applicable	
15. Eligibility of Tenderer	<p>Reputed firms, manufacturers and suppliers from all countries except Israel with the following international experience :</p> <p>(a) Tenderer must have overall minimum 05 (five) years experience.</p> <p>(b) If the tenderer is not the manufacturer himself, the tenderer must submit Authorization Letter from the manufacturer or manufacturer's authorized distributor to prove the quoted materials are genuine.</p> <p>(c) Tenderer shall have experience in supplying similar materials to other than the Tenderer's own country.</p> <p>(d) Manufacturer shall have minimum 10 (ten) years experience in manufacturing the offered products.</p> <p>(e) Manufacturer shall have valid ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 certificates as well as tender shall have valid ISO 9001 certificate.</p>	
16. Description of Goods	Ball Bearing, Bushing & Coupling under Group-A, Seamless Stainless Steel Tubing & Tube Fittings, Seamless Carbon Steel Pipe, Stud Bolt with Nuts, Pressure Gauge Snubber, Pressure Gauge & Blind Flange under Group-B, Direct Spring Pressure Relief Valve and Ball Valve under Group-C and Portable Pneumatic Calibrator under Group-D.	
17. Tender Security Amount	Group-A: USD 590.00 or BDT. 71,500.00 Group-B: USD 540.00 or BDT. 66,000.00 Group-C: USD 410.00 or BDT. 50,000.00 Group-D: USD 1,550.00 or BDT. 1,90,000.00 In the form of Bank Guarantee only	
18. Delivery Time	120 days from the date of L/C opening for Group-A, Group-B & Group-C and 180 days from the date of L/C opening for Group-D	
19. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Engr. Md. Ashraful Alam	
20. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Operation) & General Manager (Technical Services)-Additional Charge	
21. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFL), Head Office, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400, Bangladesh, Telephone no. +880 1711-807979 E-mail: prbgfcl@gmail.com / dgmfp@bgfcl.org.bd	
22. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	<p>Special Information</p> <p>i) Tenders must remain valid for 120 (one hundred twenty) days from the date of closing of the tender.</p> <p>ii) The tender security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred forty eight) days from the date of closing of the tender.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>iv) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer.</p> <p>v) Tender submitted by e-mail will be rejected. Likewise photocopy of e-mailed tenders will also be rejected.</p> <p>vi) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any tenders or annul the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected tenderers.</p> <p>vii) This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rule 2008.</p> <p>The aforesaid notice is also available at BPPA website @ http://www.cptu.gov.bd, Petrobangla website @ www.petrobangla.org.bd and BGFL website @ www.bfgcl.org.bd.</p>	

Office of the Project Director

Reviving the Technology of Muslin Yarn & Muslin Fabrics 'the Golden Heritage of Bangladesh' (2nd Phase) Project
Bangladesh Handloom Board
BTMC Bhaban (3rd Floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
www.bhbl.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders (OTM)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Textiles & Jute
2. Agency	Bangladesh Handloom Board
3. Procuring entity name	Project Director
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5. Invitation for	Selection of agency for the procurement of manpower on Outsourcing basis. (Non-Consultancy Service)
6. Invitation Ref. No.	24.05.0000.548.14.002.24-03, Date: 20.01.2025
7. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), NCT
8. Budget & source of funds	Development Budget, GoB
9. Project name	Reviving the Technology of Muslin Yarn & Muslin Fabrics 'the Golden Heritage of Bangladesh' (2nd Phase) Project.
10. Tender Package No.	Service-02
11. Tender publication date	21.01.2025
12. Tender last selling date	03.02.2025 at 04:00pm
13. Tender closing date & time	04.02.2025 at 12:00pm
14. Tender opening date & time	04.02.2025 at 1:00pm
15. - Selling tender document	Project Director Office, Reviving the Technology of Muslin Yarn & Muslin Fabrics 'the Golden Heritage of Bangladesh' (2nd Phase) Project, BTMC Bhaban (3rd Floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Receiving tender document	
- Opening tender document	
16. Eligibility of tenderer	<p>i) Any Manpower supplying agency having up-to-date trade license, income tax submission certificate & VAT registration certificate with e-BIN.</p> <p>ii) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 3 (Three) years.</p> <p>iii) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least Two contract of similar nature (Manpower Supply), complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of three (3) years each with a value of at least Tk. 5,00,000.00 (Five lac) shall be required.</p> <p>iv) The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk 5,00,000.00 (Five lac) over the last 03 (three) years.</p> <p>v) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 5,00,000.00 (Five lac)</p> <p>vi) Other qualifications as mentioned in the Tender documents.</p>
17. Brief description of services	Supply of 1 (one) Office Assistant-cum-Computer Operator and 1 (one) Office Sohoyok on outsourcing basis.
18. Price of tender document	Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand) only.
19. Pkg. No.	Identification of package
20. Service-02	2 Nos. outsourcing manpower
21. Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 02-55012769
22. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

Project Director

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19/01/25

Engr. Md. Ashraful Alam
General Manager (Operation) and
General Manager (Technical Services)-Additional Charge